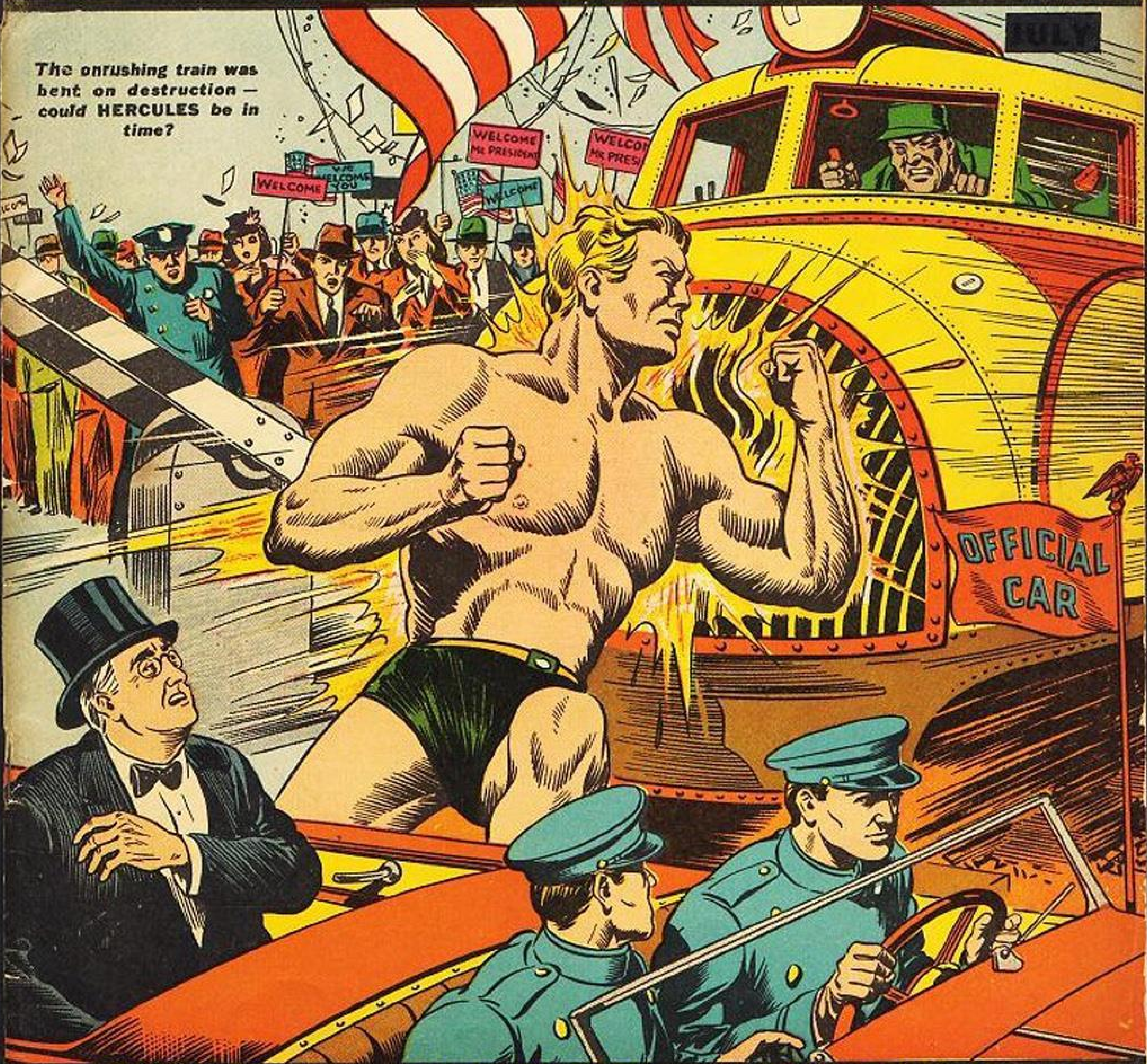
MYSTIC COMICS

10¢

No. 4

AUGUST



The onrushing train was bent on destruction — could HERCULES be in time?

[redacted]

WELCOME
WE WELCOME YOU
WELCOME
WELCOME MR PRESIDENT
WELCOM MR PRESI
OFFICIAL CAR

HERCULES | **BLUE BLAZE** | **DYNAMIC MAN**

THE THIN MAN | **FLEXO THE RUBBER MAN** | **THE BLACK WIDOW**

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Follow the hobby of President Roosevelt, King George, Adolphe Menjou, Jean Hersholt, Shirley Temple and other famous people. Frasek Company . . . America's largest mail order stamp dealer-offers these rare, magnificent stamps at prices that are practically a gift. Thrills galore await the beginner as well as the advanced collector.

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Approvals sent.

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An offer of fine and interesting stamps from the very countries fighting the war in Europe that everyone will want to have. The FAMOUS 1940 WORLD WAR PACKET contains such outstanding stamps as 25 all different French Colonies showing many of the natives of Asia and Africa fighting the war in the [illegible] of France, 25 all different Soviet Russia War Fascism and Revolution stamps, 15 all different old and new Greece, 5 very old Ottoman Empire classics, 1 Costa Rica Diamond showing a beautiful orchid in natural colors, 4 Czechoslovakian pictorial Commemorations, 1 Bosnia and Herzegovina Commemoration, 1 beautiful Queen Astrid Mourning Black edged stamp, 1 New Zealand and 100 all different foreign stamps, a total collection of 182 all different postage stamps — all yours for only 10c. Approvals sent. EVERY STAMP IS GUARANTEED GENUINE. 10c

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[illegible]

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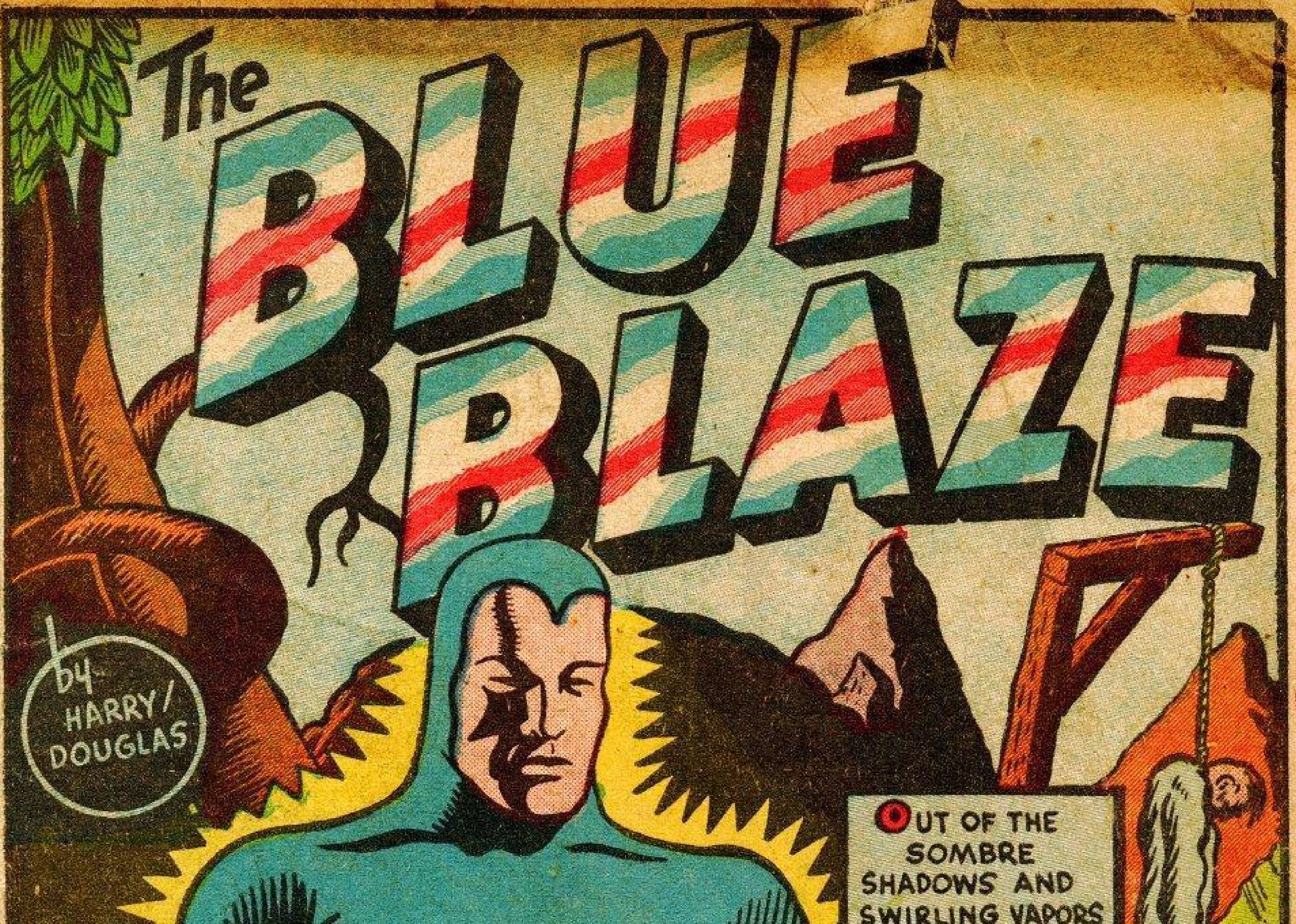
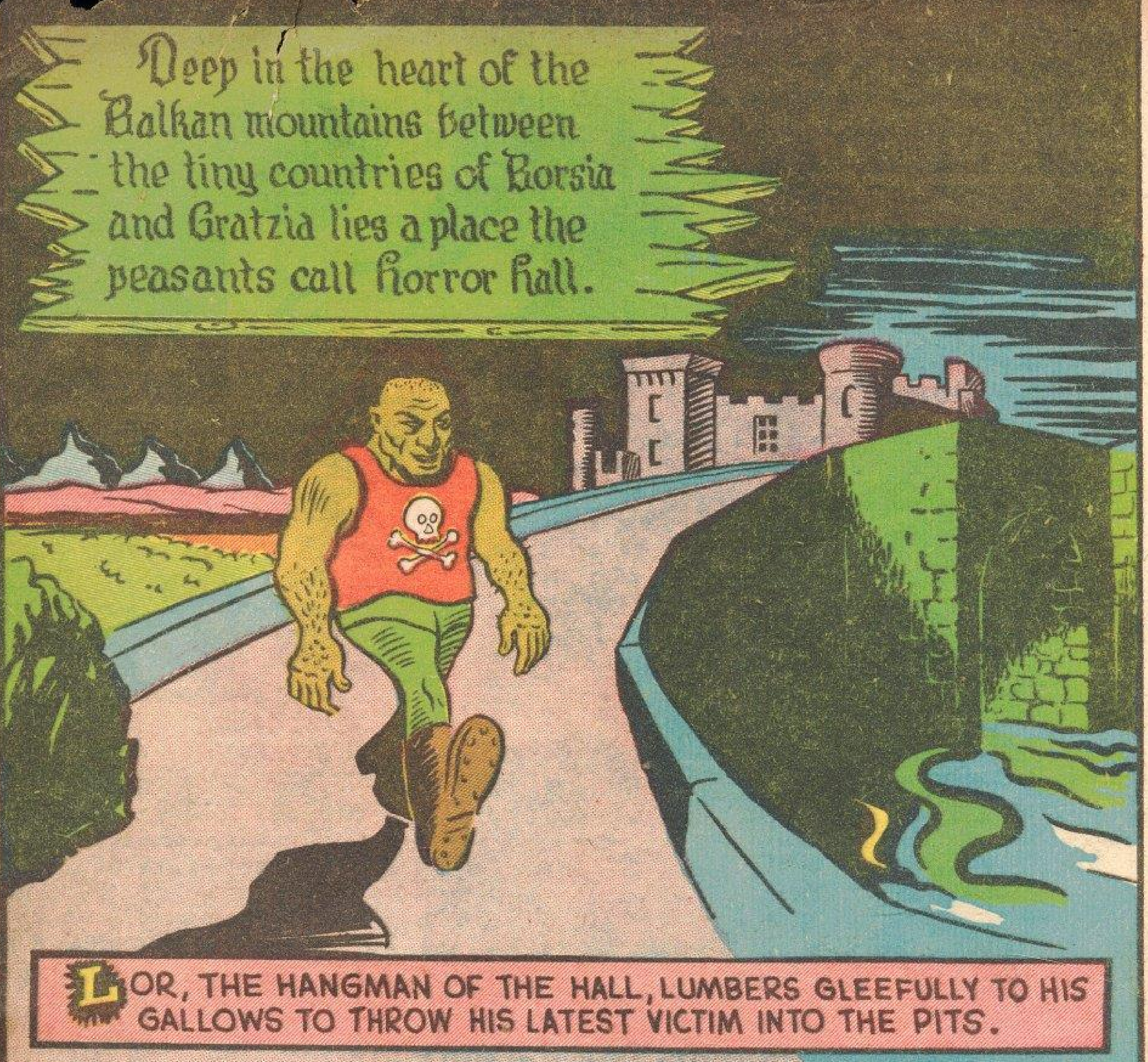
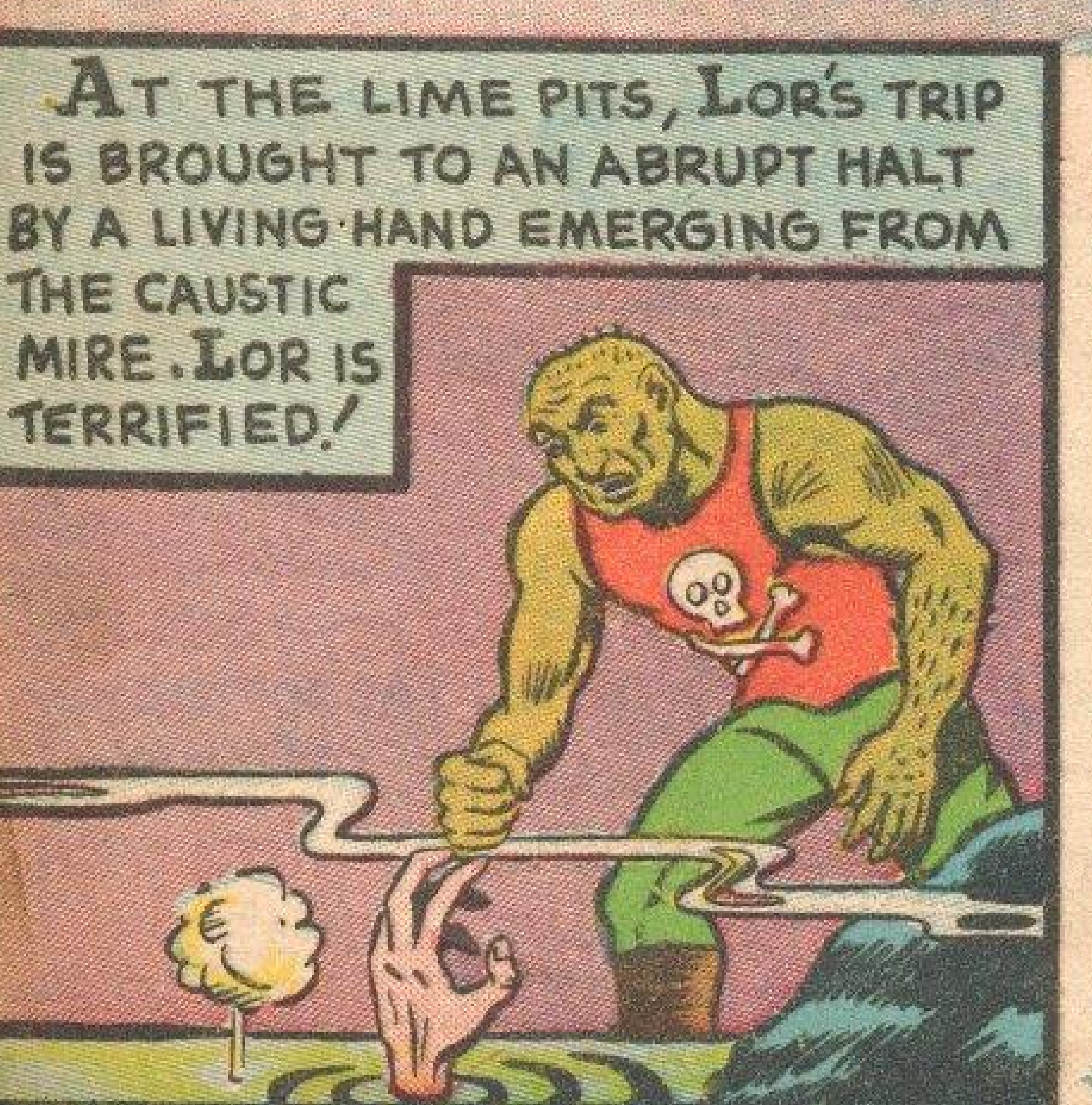
The BLUE BLAZE

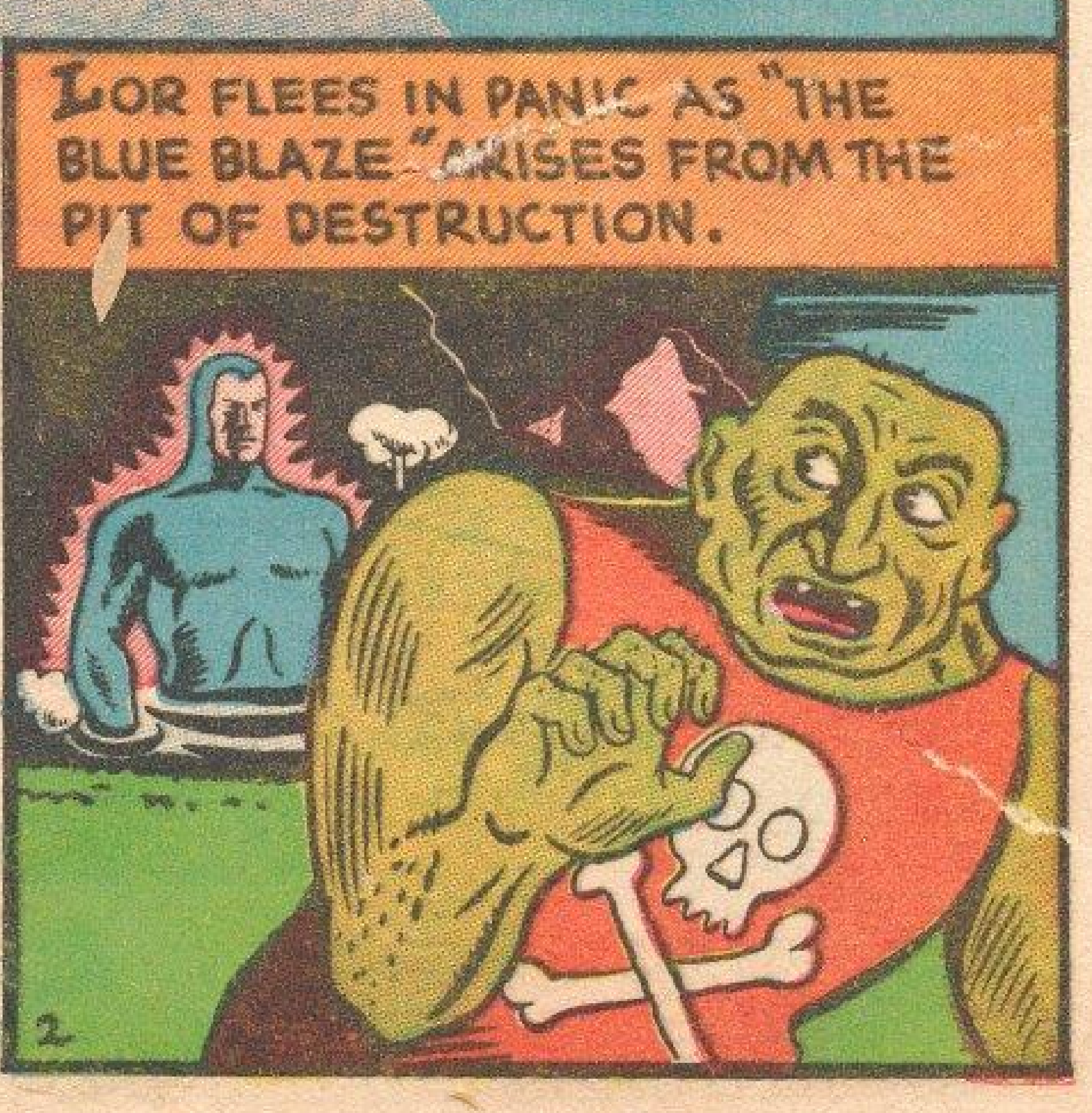

by HARRY/ DOUGLAS
OUT OF THE SOMBRE SHADOWS AND SWIRLING VAPORS OF THE LIME PIT, AND HANGING GROUNDS OF "THE TRUSTEES OF HATE" COMES THE BLUE BLAZE, ENEMY of CRIME.

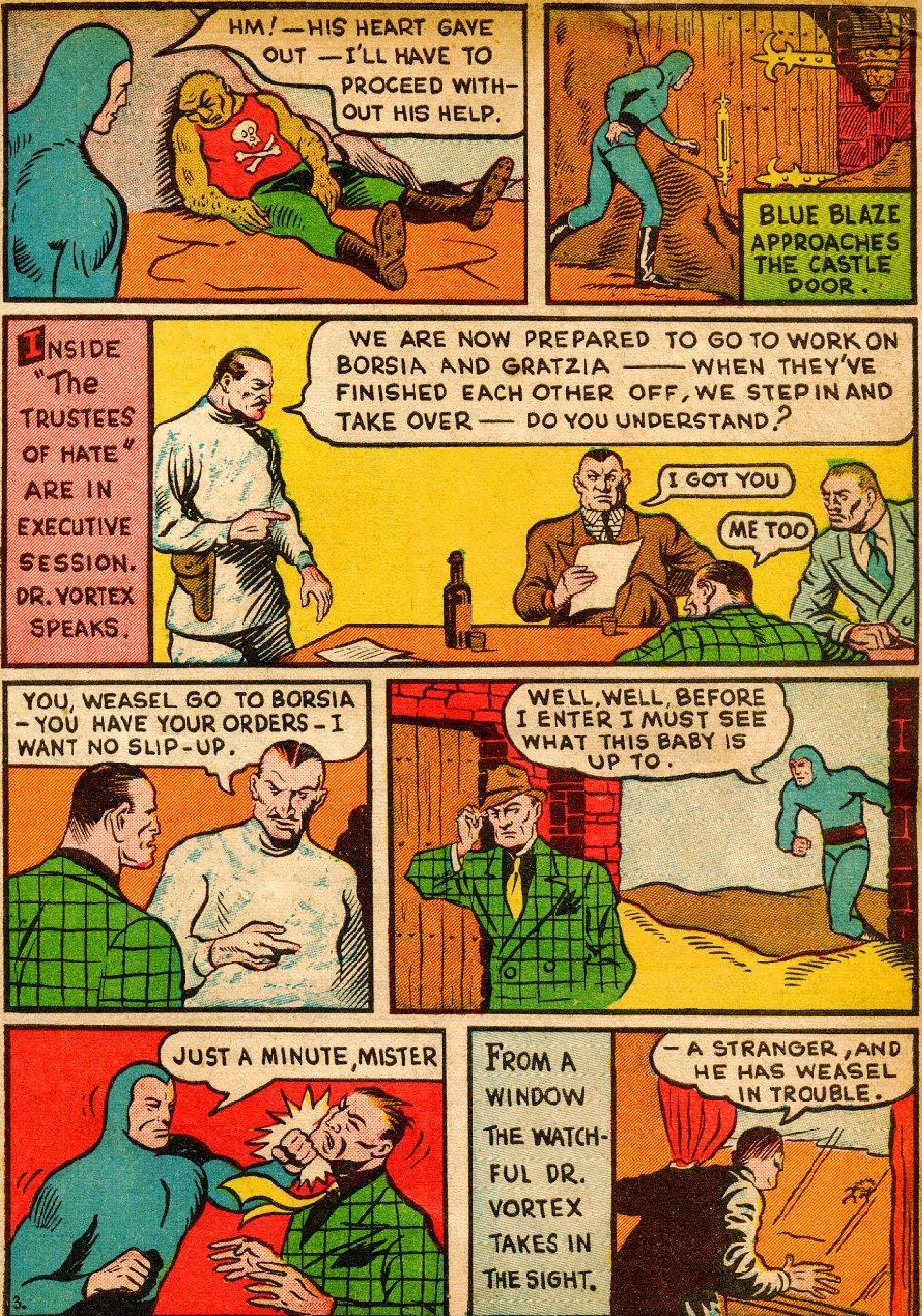
A Marble River Scan.

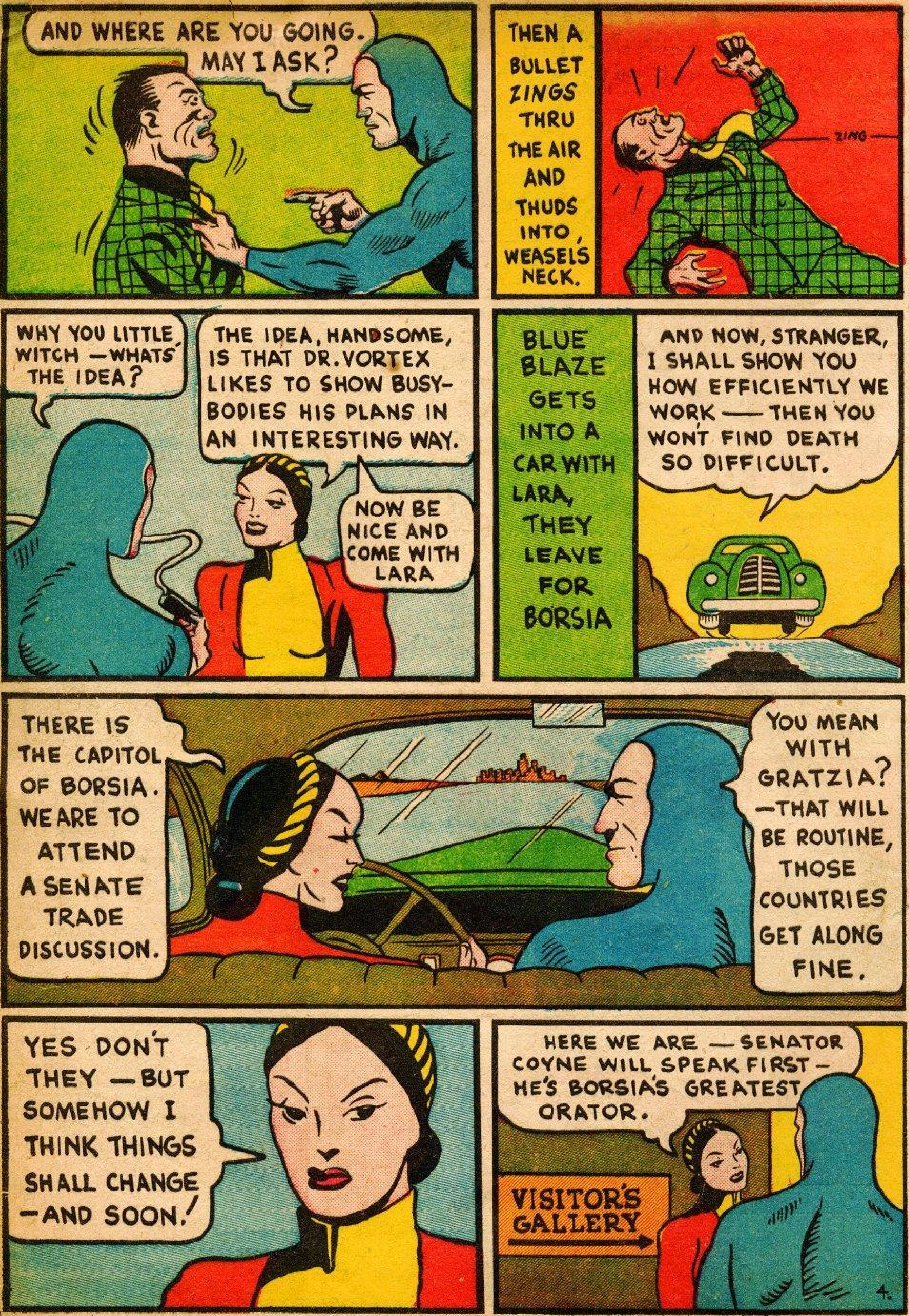
SPENCER KEEN, BURIED IN 1852 IS NOT DEAD — STRUCK DOWN BY A MYSTERIOUS BLUE BLAZE IN HIS FATHER'S LABORATORY SPENCER KEEN WAS BURIED —— 88 YEARS LATER HE AROSE, AND WITH SUPER POWER PROCEEDED TO THWART CRIME – WITH EACH CONQUEST "THE BLUE BLAZE" RETURNS TO THE GRAVE, AND AS HE SLEEPS A STRANGE COSMIC FORCE MOVES HIM ***UNDERGROUND*** TO NEW CENTERS OF CRIME — THEN HE **AWAKENS!**

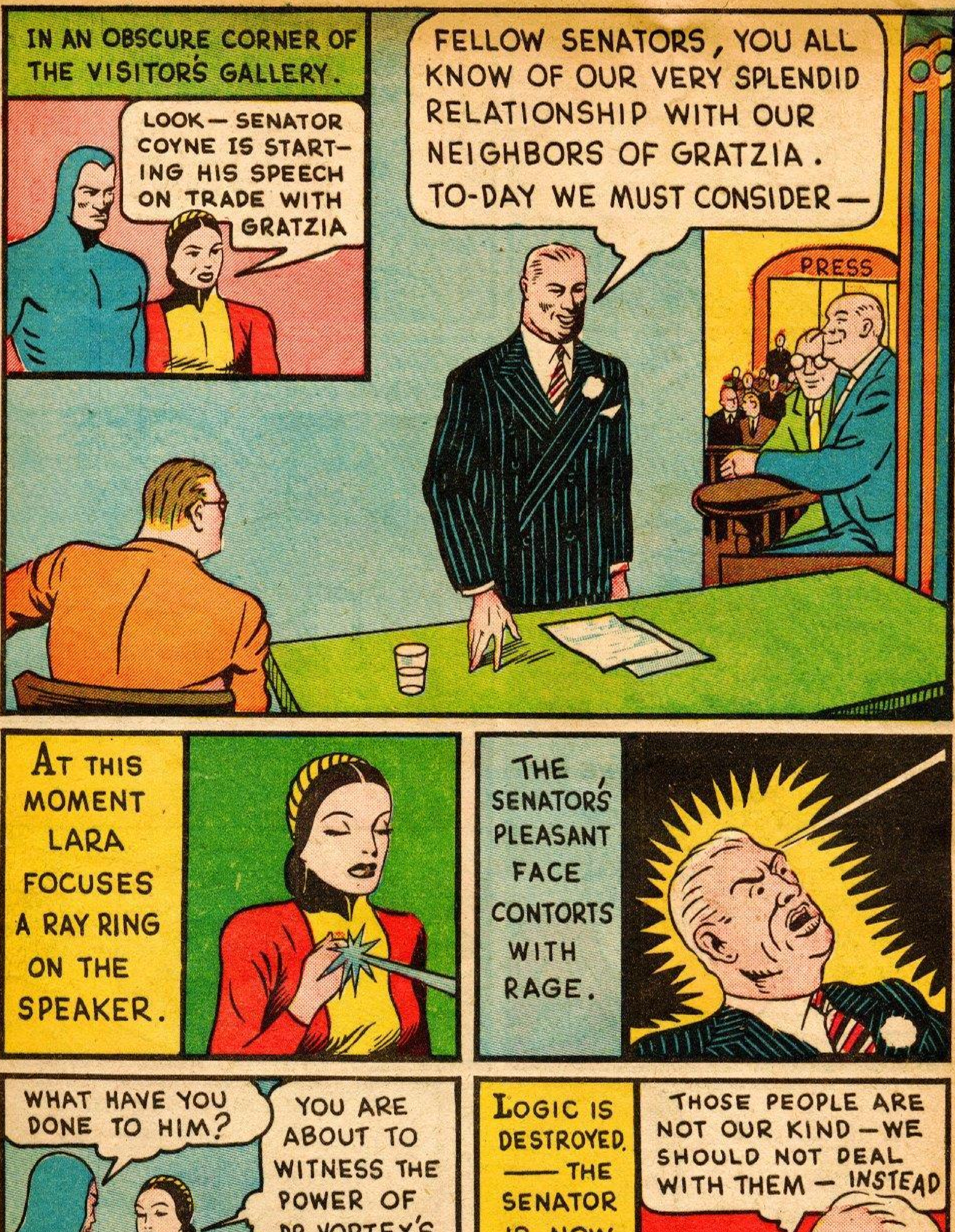

Deep in the heart of the Balkan mountains between the tiny countries of Borsia and Gratzia lies a place the peasants call Horror Hall.
LOR, THE HANGMAN OF THE HALL, LUMBERS GLEEFULLY TO HIS GALLOWS TO THROW HIS LATEST VICTIM INTO THE PITS.

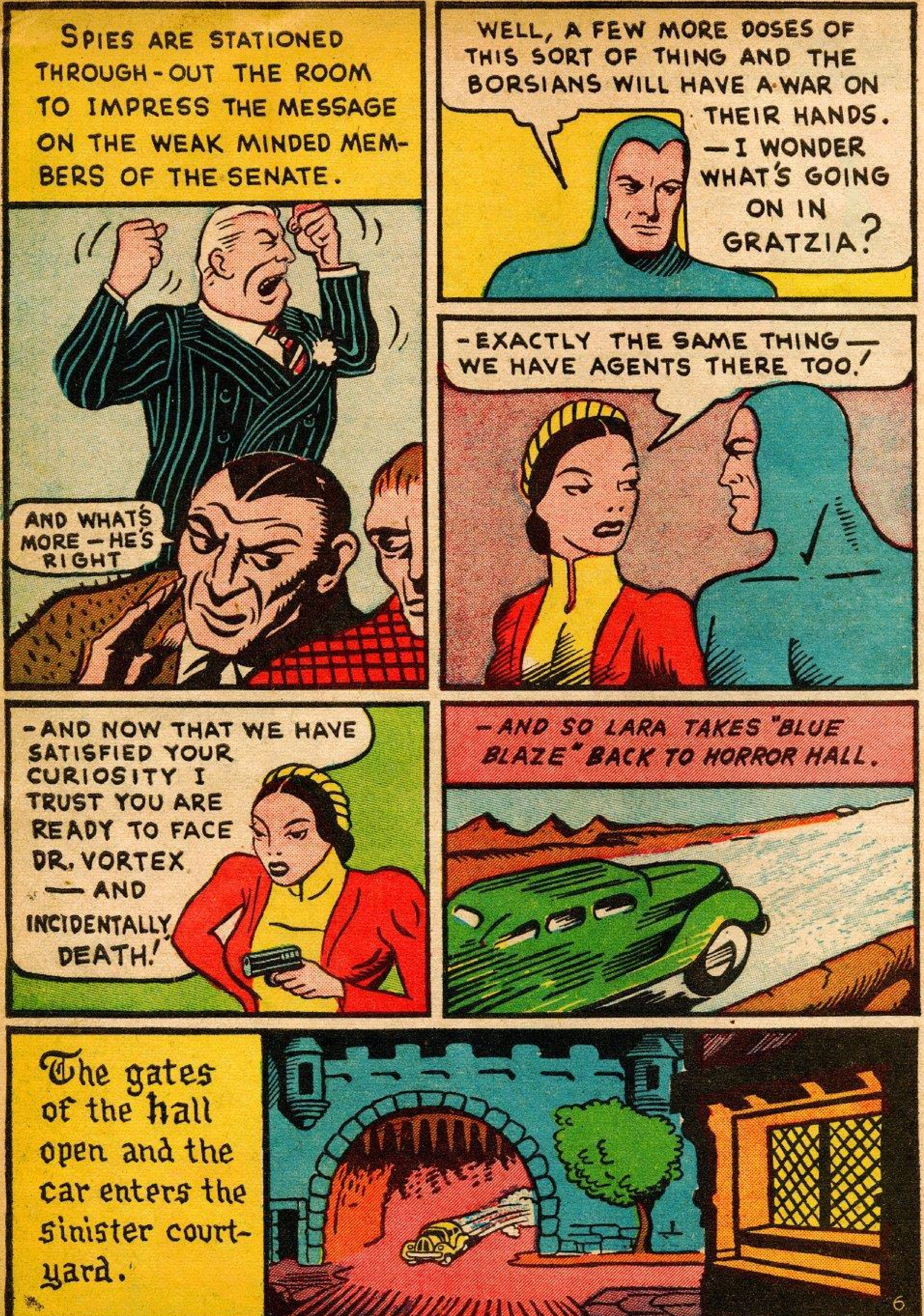

AT THE LIME PITS, LOR'S TRIP IS BROUGHT TO AN ABRUPT HALT BY A LIVING HAND EMERGING FROM THE CAUSTIC MIRE. LOR IS TERRIFIED!

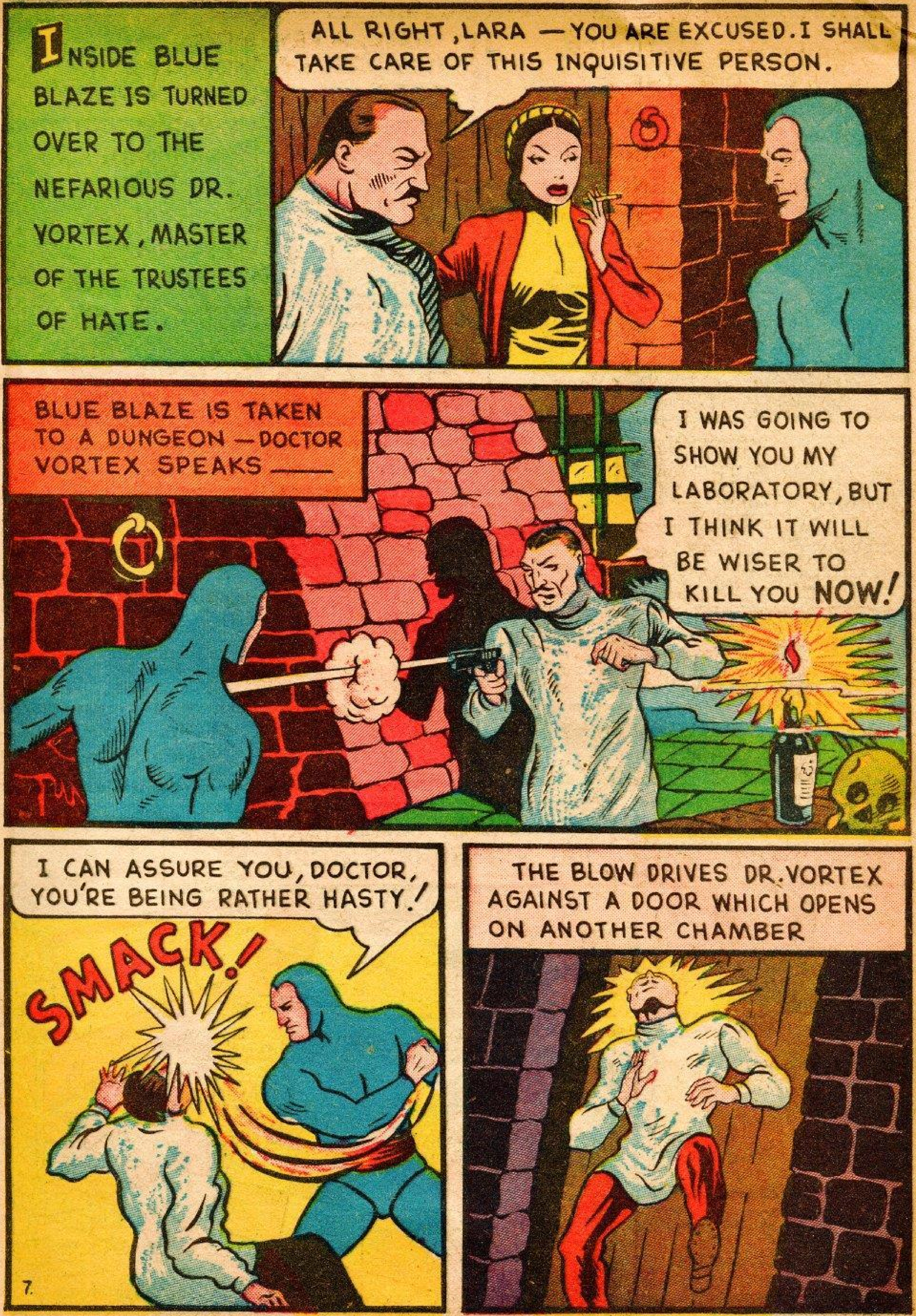

LOR FLEES IN PANIC AS "THE BLUE BLAZE" ARISES FROM THE PIT OF DESTRUCTION.

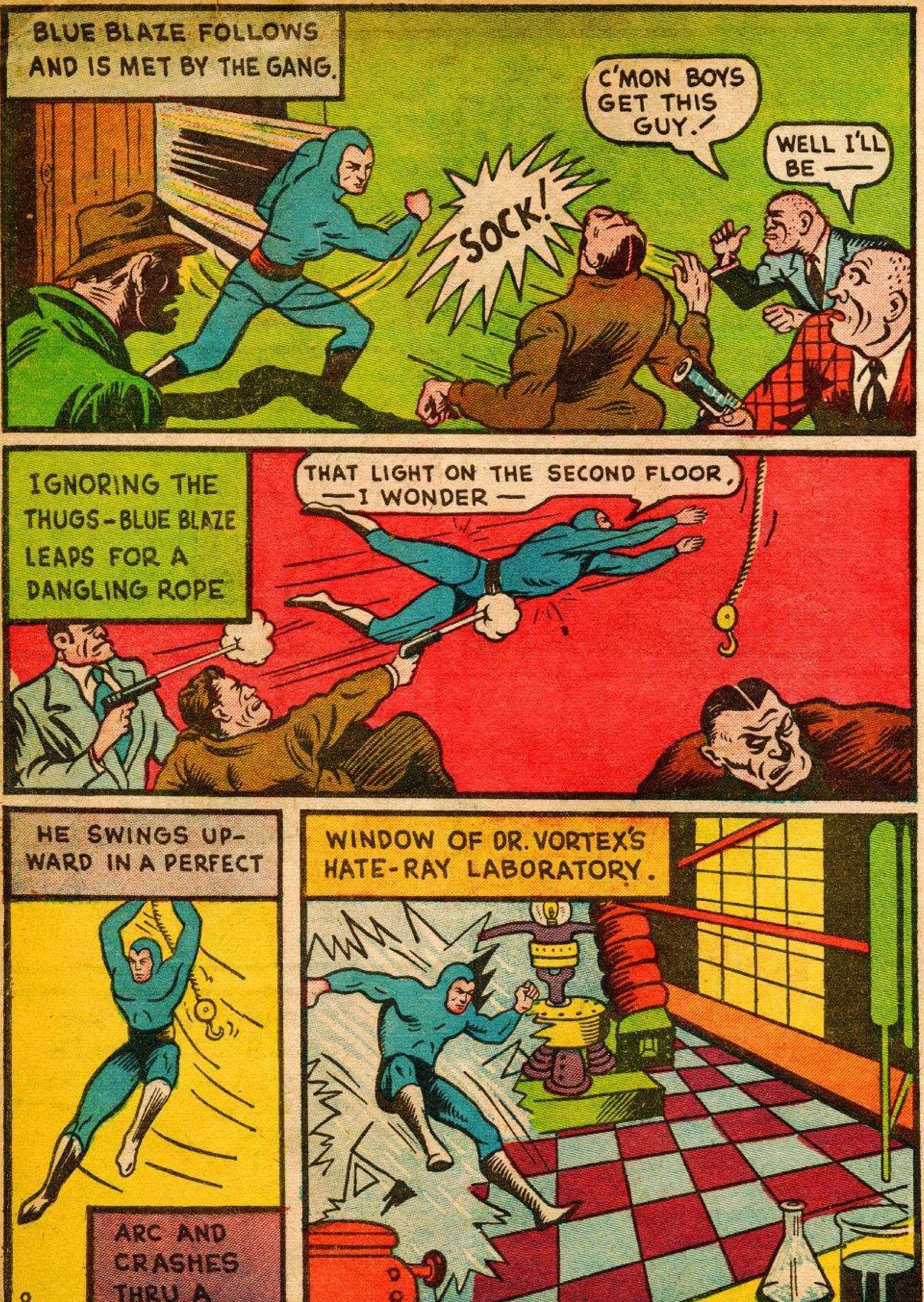

HM! —HIS HEART GAVE OUT —I'LL HAVE TO PROCEED WITHOUT HIS HELP.
BLUE BLAZE APPROACHES THE CASTLE DOOR.
INSIDE "The TRUSTEES OF HATE" ARE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION. DR. VORTEX SPEAKS.
WE ARE NOW PREPARED TO GO TO WORK ON BORSIA AND GRATZIA —— WHEN THEY'VE FINISHED EACH OTHER OFF, WE STEP IN AND TAKE OVER — DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
I GOT YOU
ME TOO
YOU, WEASEL GO TO BORSIA - YOU HAVE YOUR ORDERS - I WANT NO SLIP-UP.
WELL, WELL, BEFORE I ENTER I MUST SEE WHAT THIS BABY IS UP TO.
JUST A MINUTE, MISTER
FROM A WINDOW THE WATCHFUL DR. VORTEX TAKES IN THE SIGHT.
— A STRANGER, AND HE HAS WEASEL IN TROUBLE.

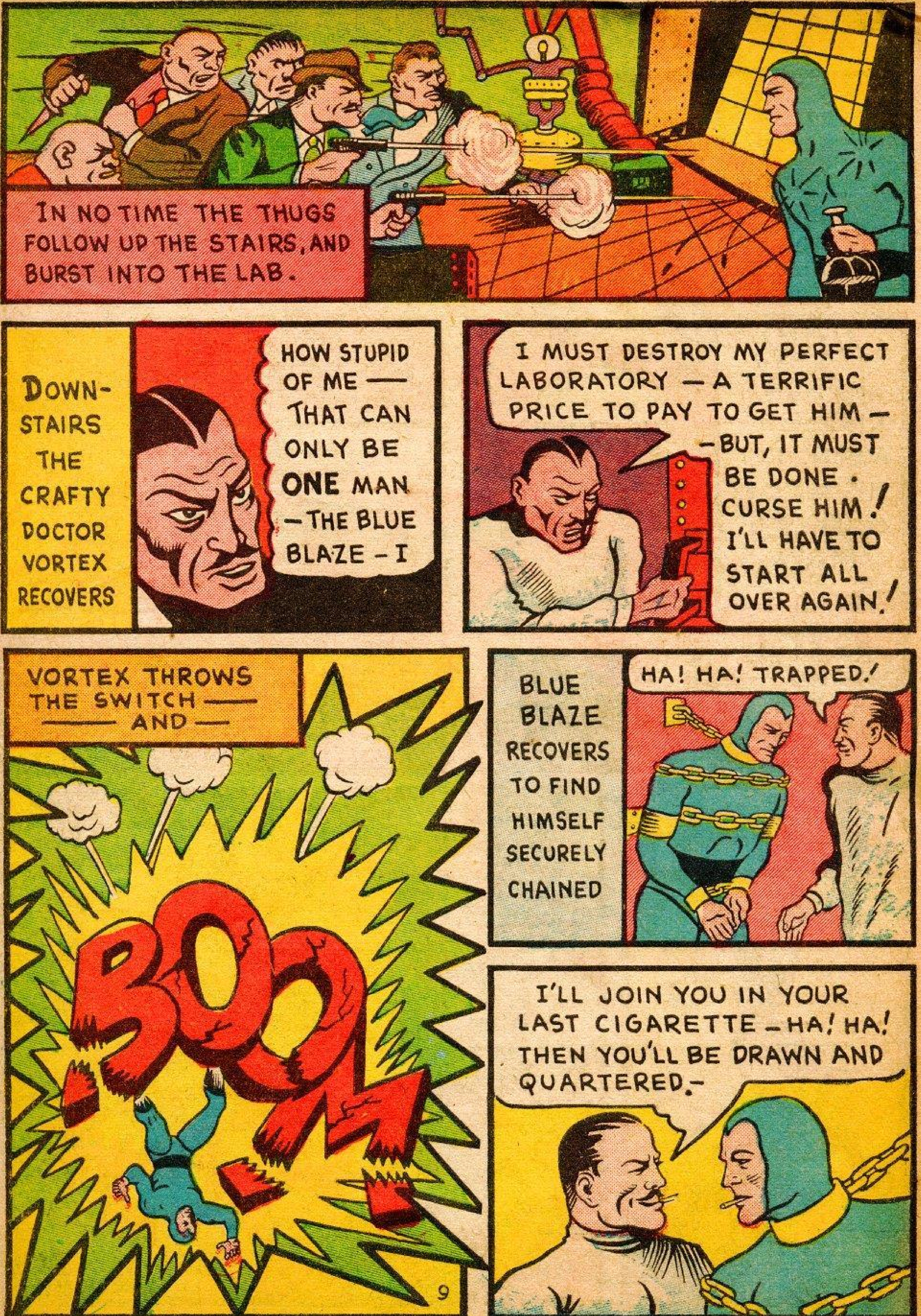

AND WHERE ARE YOU GOING. MAY I ASK?
THEN A BULLET ZINGS THRU THE AIR AND THUDS INTO, WEASEL'S NECK.
ZING
WHY YOU LITTLE WITCH —WHATS THE IDEA?
THE IDEA, HANDSOME, IS THAT DR. VORTEX LIKES TO SHOW BUSY-BODIES HIS PLANS IN AN INTERESTING WAY.
NOW BE NICE AND COME WITH LARA
BLUE BLAZE GETS INTO A CAR WITH LARA, THEY LEAVE FOR BORSIA
AND NOW, STRANGER, I SHALL SHOW YOU HOW EFFICIENTLY WE WORK — THEN YOU WON'T FIND DEATH SO DIFFICULT.
THERE IS THE CAPITOL OF BORSIA. WE ARE TO ATTEND A SENATE TRADE DISCUSSION.
YOU MEAN WITH GRATZIA? —THAT WILL BE ROUTINE, THOSE COUNTRIES GET ALONG FINE.
YES DON'T THEY — BUT SOMEHOW I THINK THINGS SHALL CHANGE —AND SOON!
HERE WE ARE — SENATOR COYNE WILL SPEAK FIRST — HE'S BORSIA'S GREATEST ORATOR.
VISITOR'S GALLERY

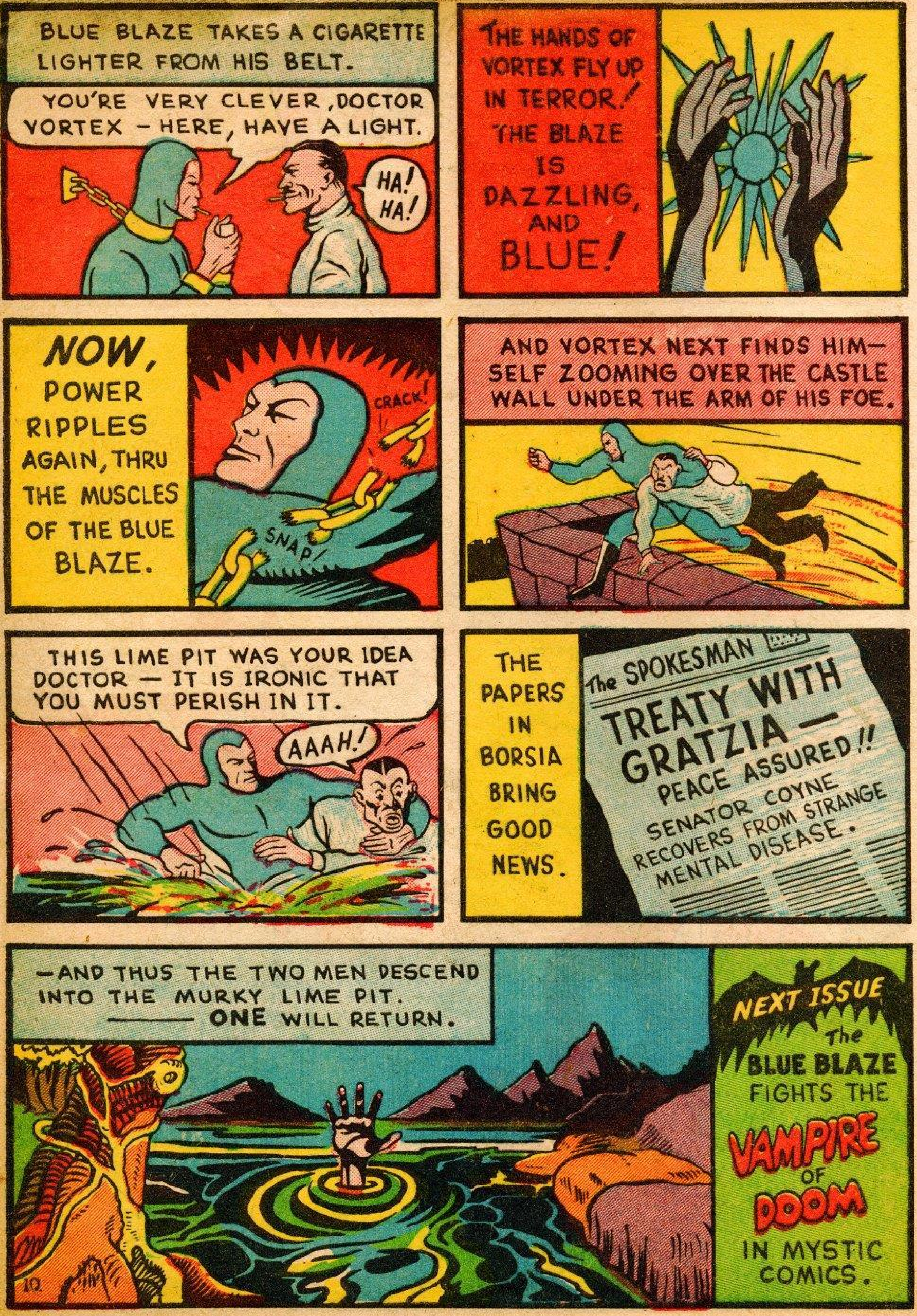

IN AN OBSCURE CORNER OF THE VISITOR'S GALLERY.
LOOK— SENATOR COYNE IS STARTING HIS SPEECH ON TRADE WITH GRATZIA
FELLOW SENATORS, YOU ALL KNOW OF OUR VERY SPLENDID RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR NEIGHBORS OF GRATZIA. TO-DAY WE MUST CONSIDER—
PRESS
AT THIS MOMENT LARA FOCUSES A RAY RING ON THE SPEAKER.
THE SENATOR'S PLEASANT FACE CONTORTS WITH RAGE.
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO HIM?
YOU ARE ABOUT TO WITNESS THE POWER OF DR. VORTEX'S HATE RAY. —WATCH THE GOOD SENATOR NOW!
LOGIC IS DESTROYED. —THE SENATOR IS NOW FILLED WITH HATE.
THOSE PEOPLE ARE NOT OUR KIND—WE SHOULD NOT DEAL WITH THEM— INSTEAD


SPIES ARE STATIONED THROUGH-OUT THE ROOM TO IMPRESS THE MESSAGE ON THE WEAK MINDED MEMBERS OF THE SENATE.
AND WHAT'S MORE—HE'S RIGHT
WELL, A FEW MORE DOSES OF THIS SORT OF THING AND THE BORSIANS WILL HAVE A WAR ON THEIR HANDS. —I WONDER WHAT'S GOING ON IN GRATZIA?
—EXACTLY THE SAME THING— WE HAVE AGENTS THERE TOO!
—AND NOW THAT WE HAVE SATISFIED YOUR CURIOSITY I TRUST YOU ARE READY TO FACE DR. VORTEX —AND INCIDENTALLY DEATH!
—AND SO LARA TAKES "BLUE BLAZE" BACK TO HORROR HALL.
The gates of the hall open and the car enters the sinister courtyard.

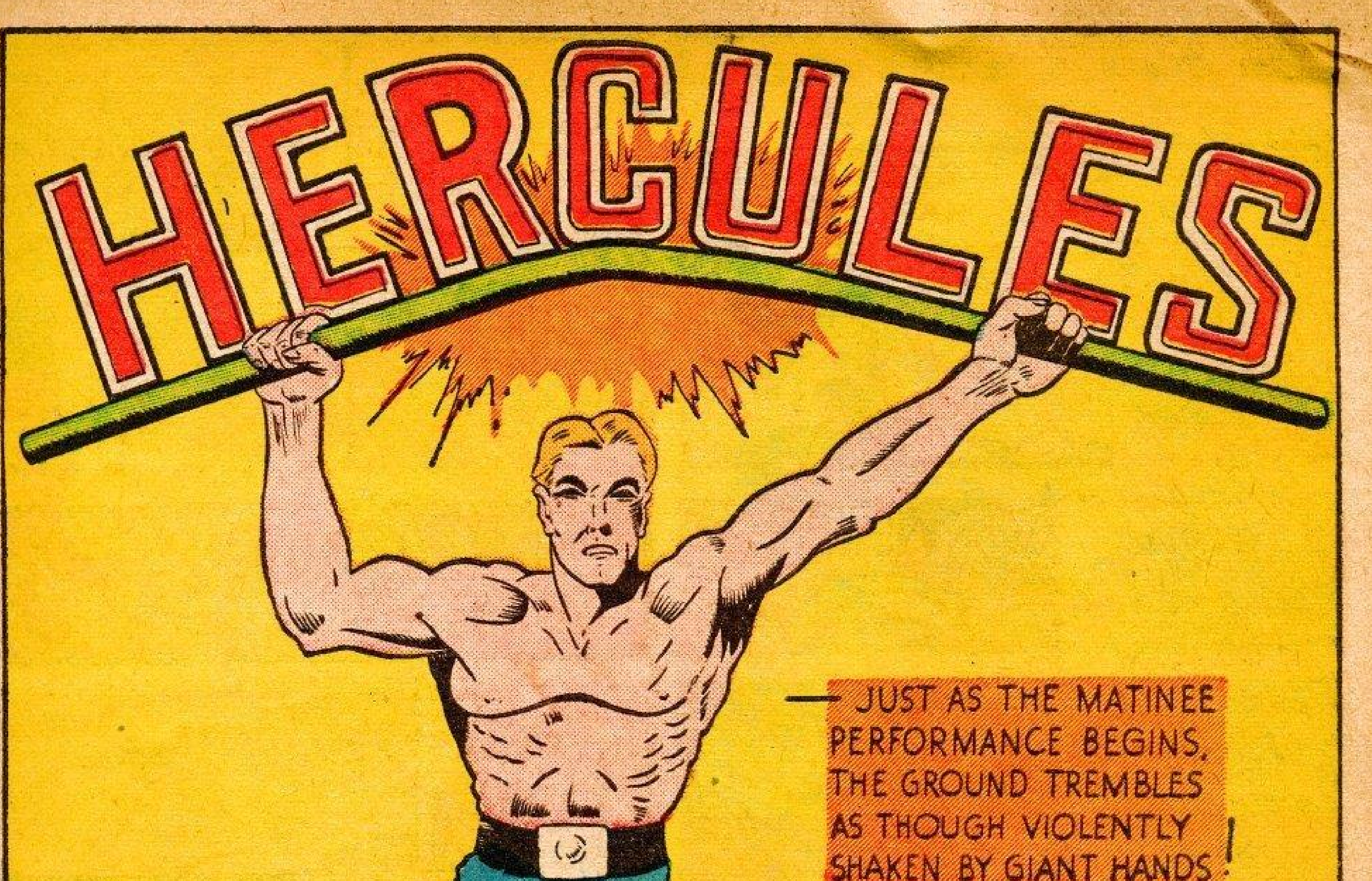

INSIDE BLUE BLAZE IS TURNED OVER TO THE NEFARIOUS DR. VORTEX, MASTER OF THE TRUSTEES OF HATE.
ALL RIGHT, LARA — YOU ARE EXCUSED. I SHALL TAKE CARE OF THIS INQUISITIVE PERSON.
BLUE BLAZE IS TAKEN TO A DUNGEON — DOCTOR VORTEX SPEAKS ——
I WAS GOING TO SHOW YOU MY LABORATORY, BUT I THINK IT WILL BE WISER TO KILL YOU NOW!
I CAN ASSURE YOU, DOCTOR, YOU'RE BEING RATHER HASTY!
SMACK!
THE BLOW DRIVES DR. VORTEX AGAINST A DOOR WHICH OPENS ON ANOTHER CHAMBER


BLUE BLAZE FOLLOWS AND IS MET BY THE GANG.
C'MON BOYS GET THIS GUY.!
WELL I'LL BE ——
SOCK!
IGNORING THE THUGS – BLUE BLAZE LEAPS FOR A DANGLING ROPE
THAT LIGHT ON THE SECOND FLOOR, —I WONDER —
HE SWINGS UPWARD IN A PERFECT
ARC AND CRASHES THRU A
WINDOW OF DR. VORTEX'S HATE-RAY LABORATORY.

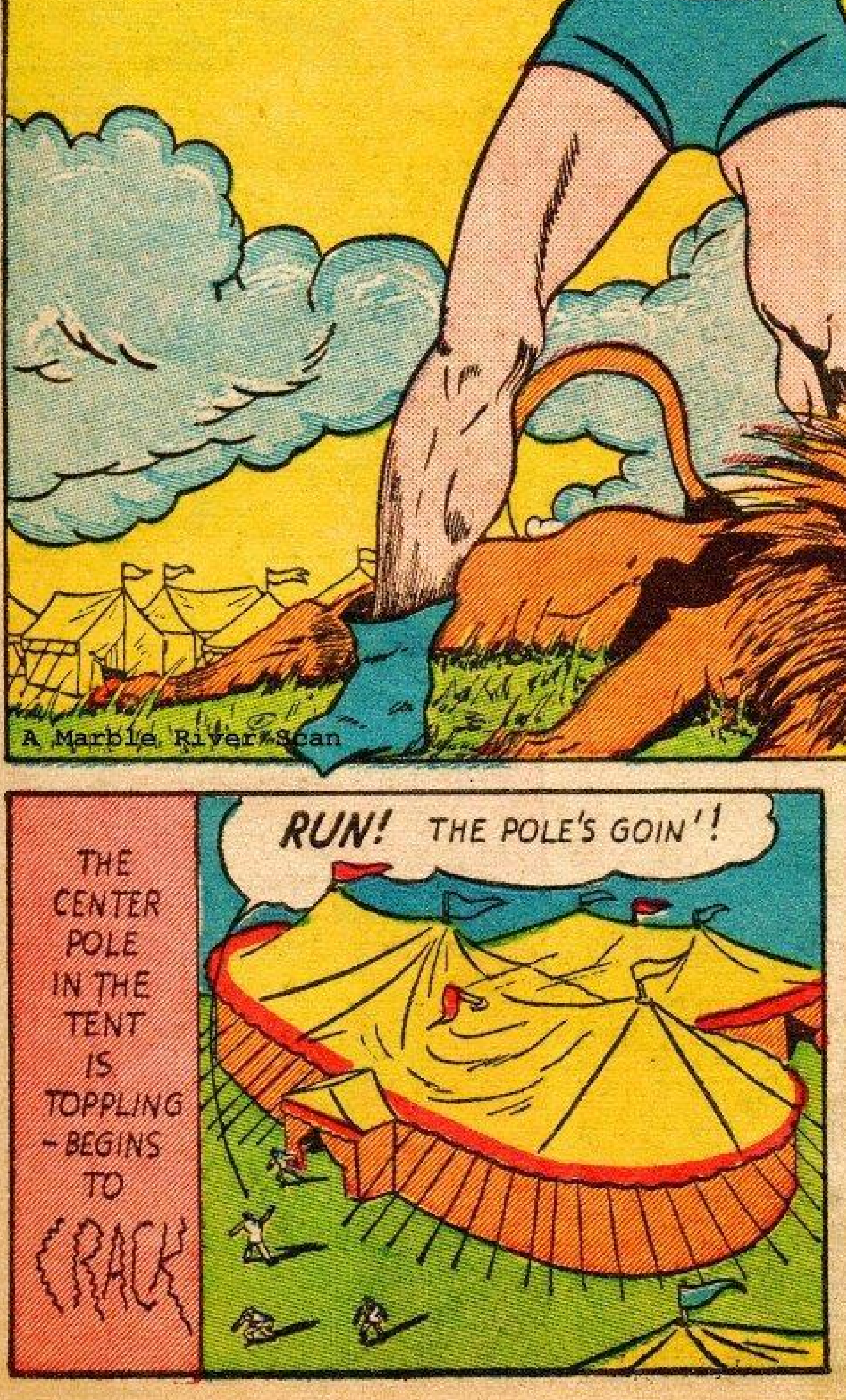

IN NO TIME THE THUGS FOLLOW UP THE STAIRS, AND BURST INTO THE LAB.
DOWNSTAIRS THE CRAFTY DOCTOR VORTEX RECOVERS
HOW STUPID OF ME — THAT CAN ONLY BE **ONE** MAN — THE BLUE BLAZE - I
I MUST DESTROY MY PERFECT LABORATORY — A TERRIFIC PRICE TO PAY TO GET HIM — — BUT, IT MUST BE DONE. CURSE HIM! I'LL HAVE TO START ALL OVER AGAIN!
VORTEX THROWS THE SWITCH — — AND —
BOOM
BLUE BLAZE RECOVERS TO FIND HIMSELF SECURELY CHAINED
HA! HA! TRAPPED!
I'LL JOIN YOU IN YOUR LAST CIGARETTE — HA! HA! THEN YOU'LL BE DRAWN AND QUARTERED. —

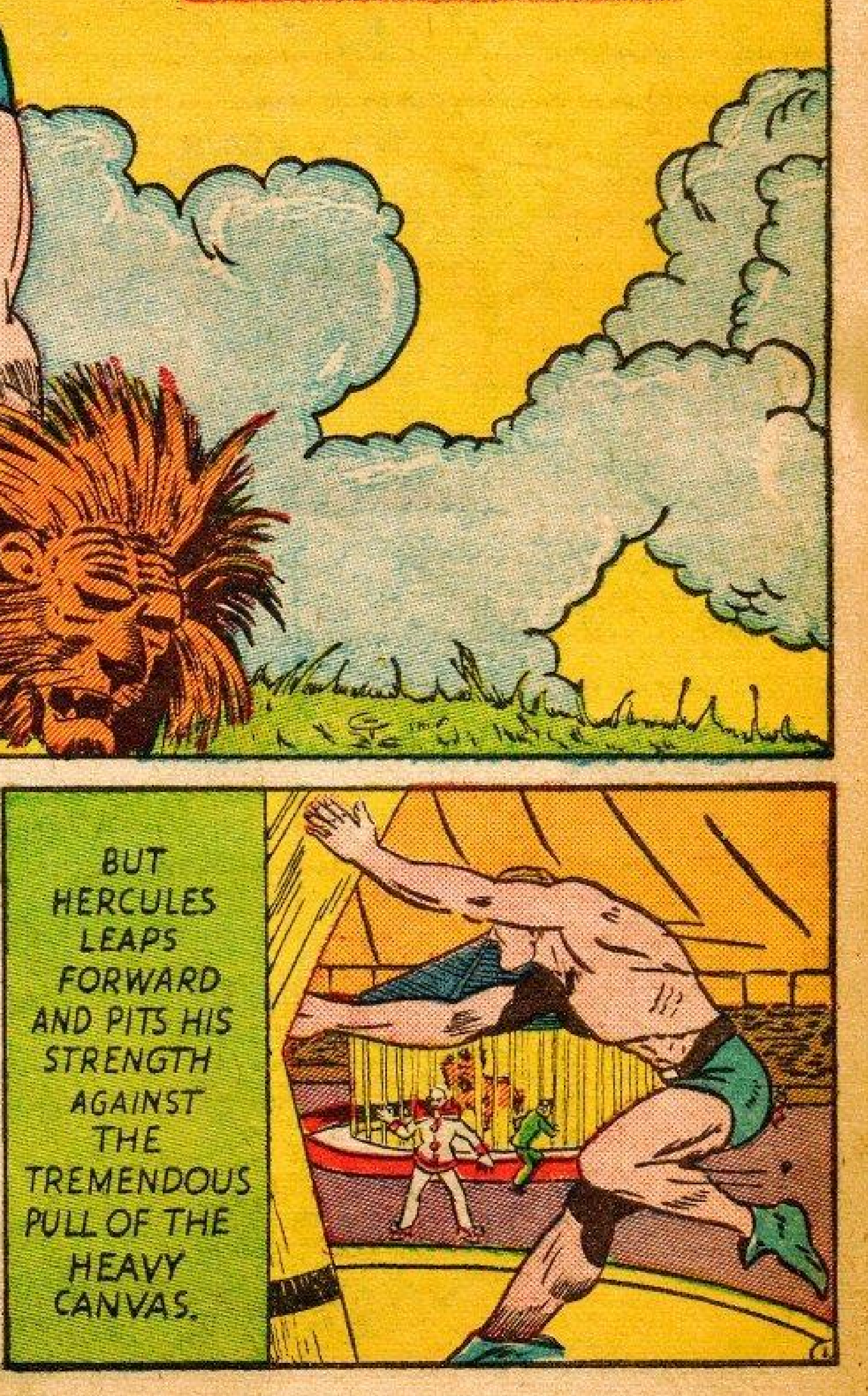

BLUE BLAZE TAKES A CIGARETTE LIGHTER FROM HIS BELT.
YOU'RE VERY CLEVER, DOCTOR VORTEX – HERE, HAVE A LIGHT.
HA! HA!
THE HANDS OF VORTEX FLY UP IN TERROR! THE BLAZE IS DAZZLING, AND BLUE!
NOW, POWER RIPPLES AGAIN, THRU THE MUSCLES OF THE BLUE BLAZE.
CRACK!
SNAP!
AND VORTEX NEXT FINDS HIMSELF ZOOMING OVER THE CASTLE WALL UNDER THE ARM OF HIS FOE.
THIS LIME PIT WAS YOUR IDEA DOCTOR — IT IS IRONIC THAT YOU MUST PERISH IN IT.
AAAH!
THE PAPERS IN BORSIA BRING GOOD NEWS.
The SPOKESMAN
TREATY WITH GRATZIA — PEACE ASSURED!!
SENATOR COYNE RECOVERS FROM STRANGE MENTAL DISEASE.
–AND THUS THE TWO MEN DESCEND INTO THE MURKY LIME PIT. ——— ONE WILL RETURN.
NEXT ISSUE The BLUE BLAZE FIGHTS THE VAMPIRE OF DOOM IN MYSTIC COMICS.

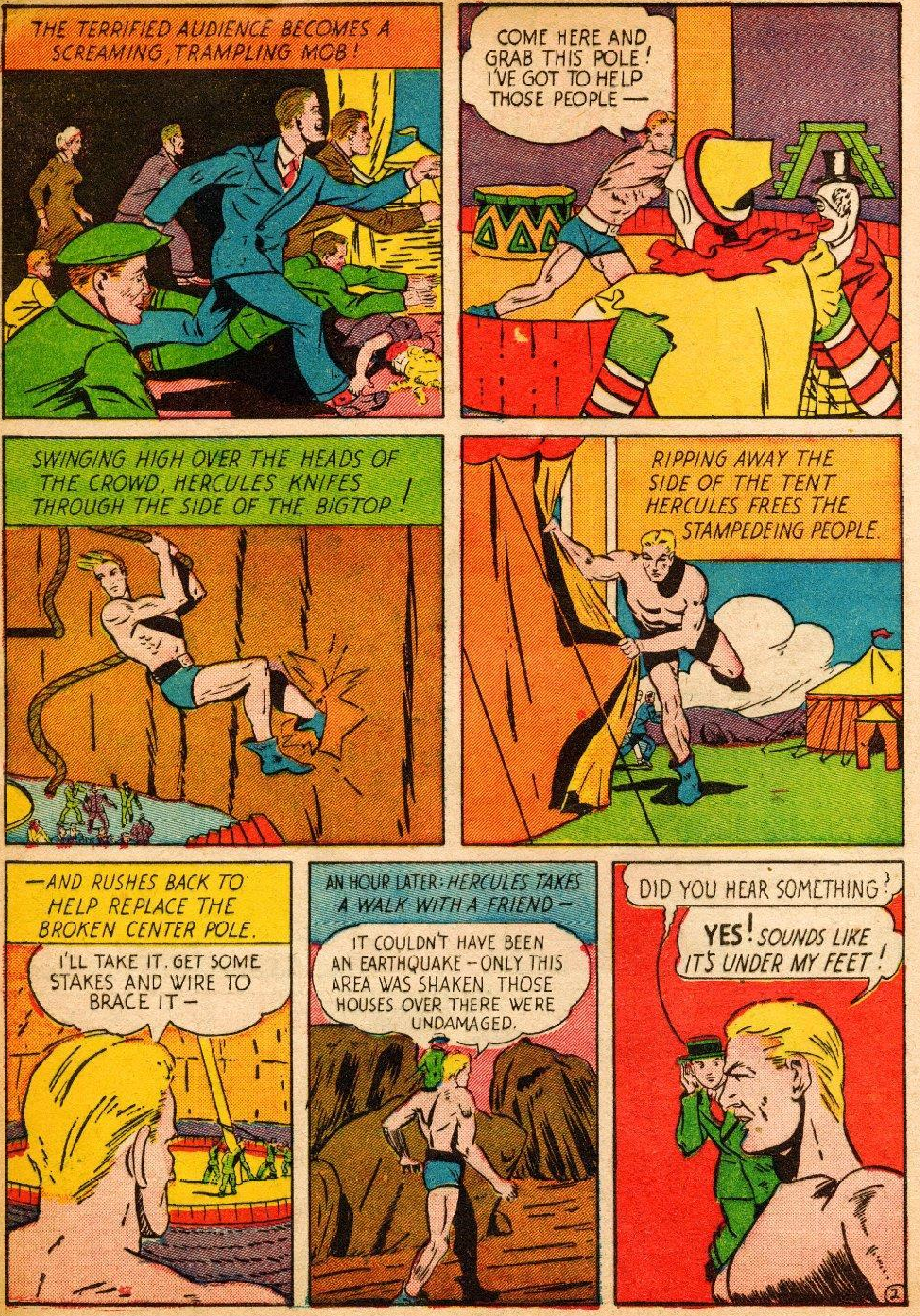
HERCULES

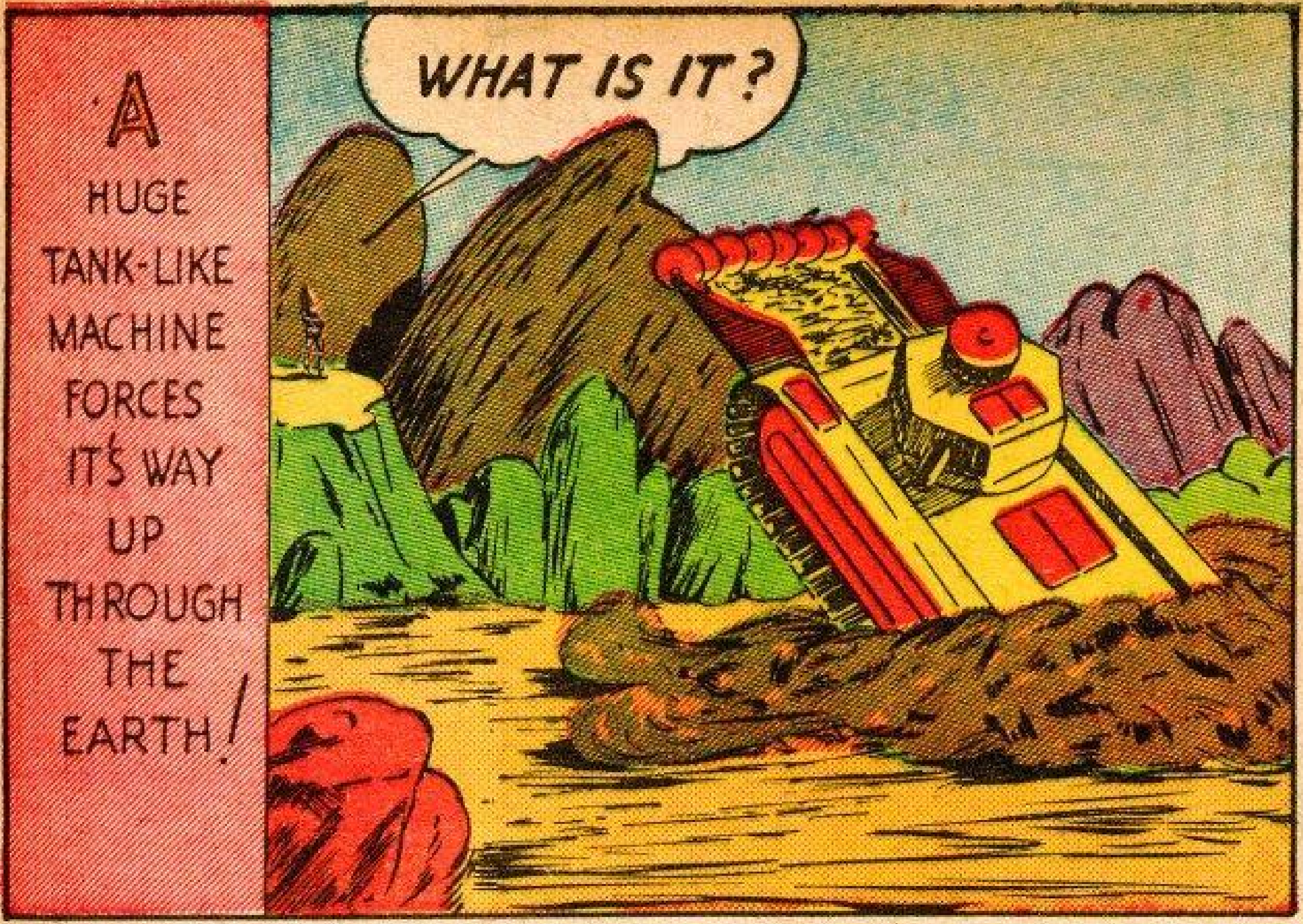

– JUST AS THE MATINEE PERFORMANCE BEGINS, THE GROUND TREMBLES AS THOUGH VIOLENTLY SHAKEN BY GIANT HANDS!

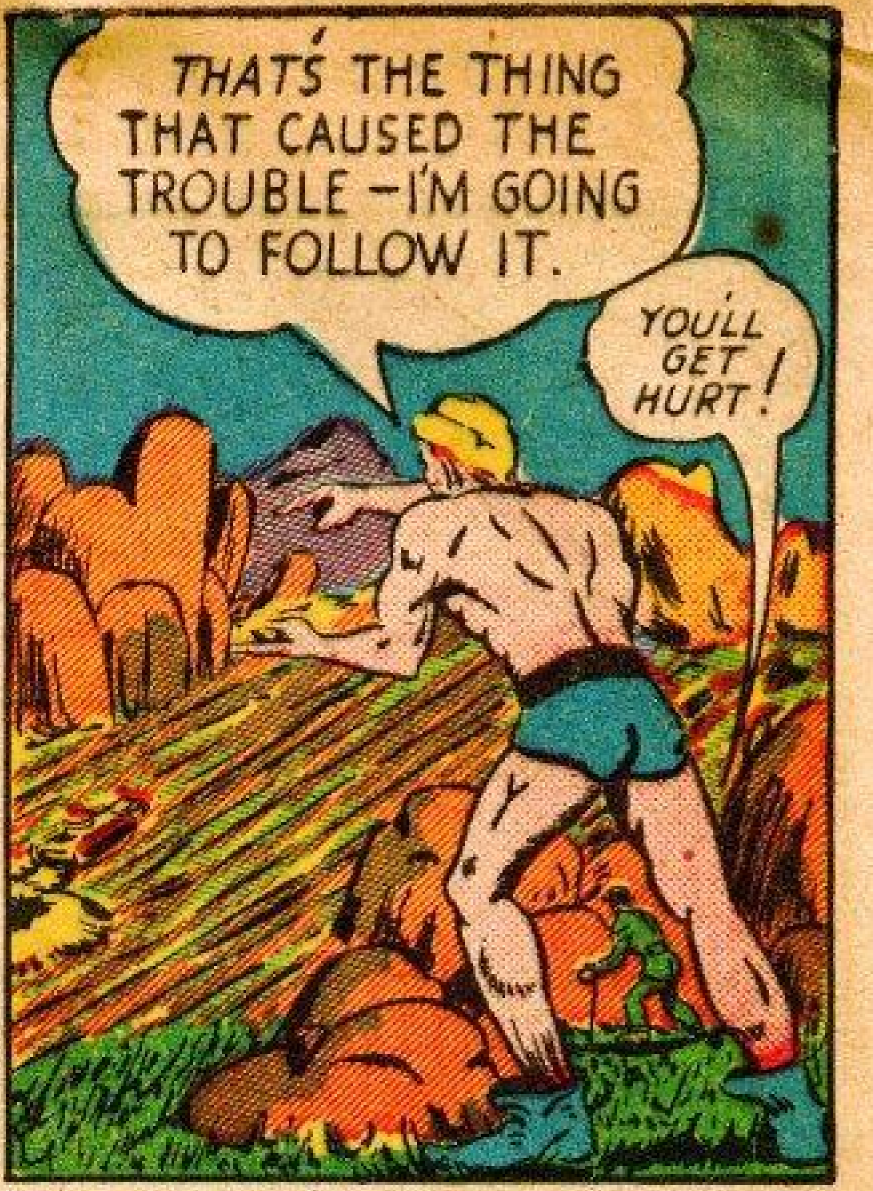
A Marble River Scan

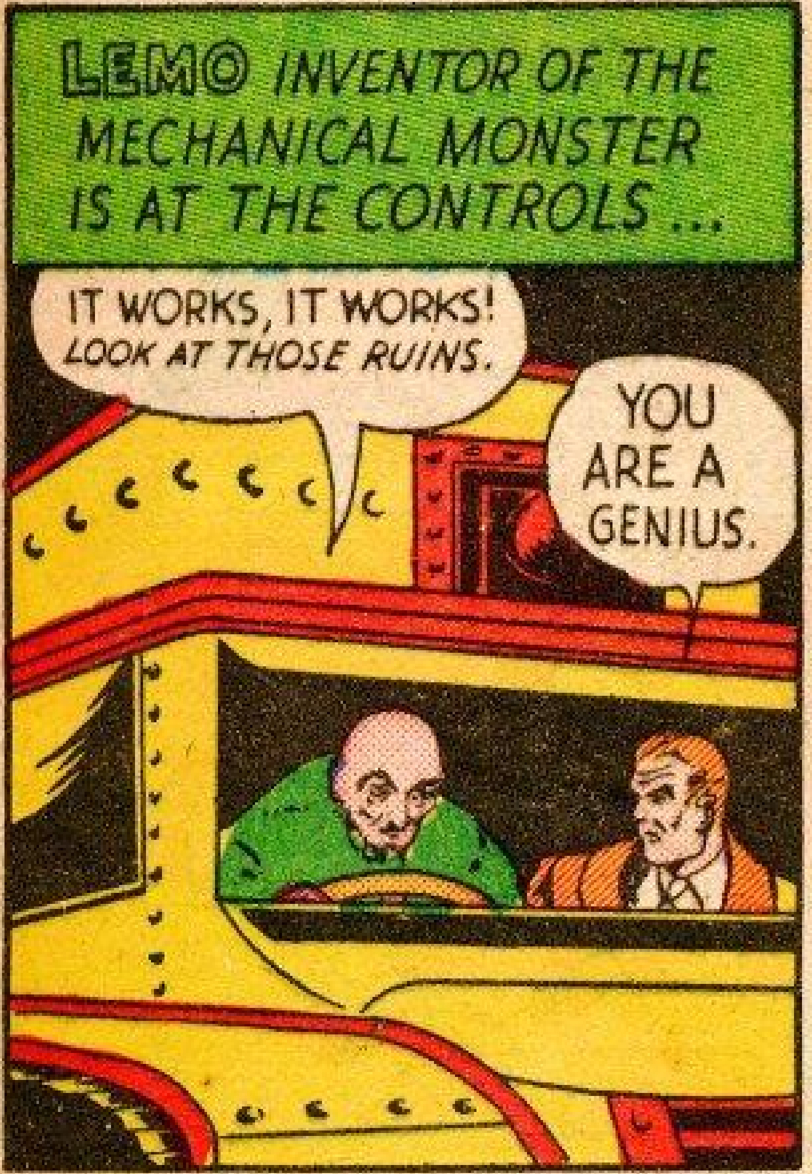

THE CENTER POLE IN THE TENT IS TOPPLING – BEGINS TO CRACK
RUN! THE POLE'S GOIN'!

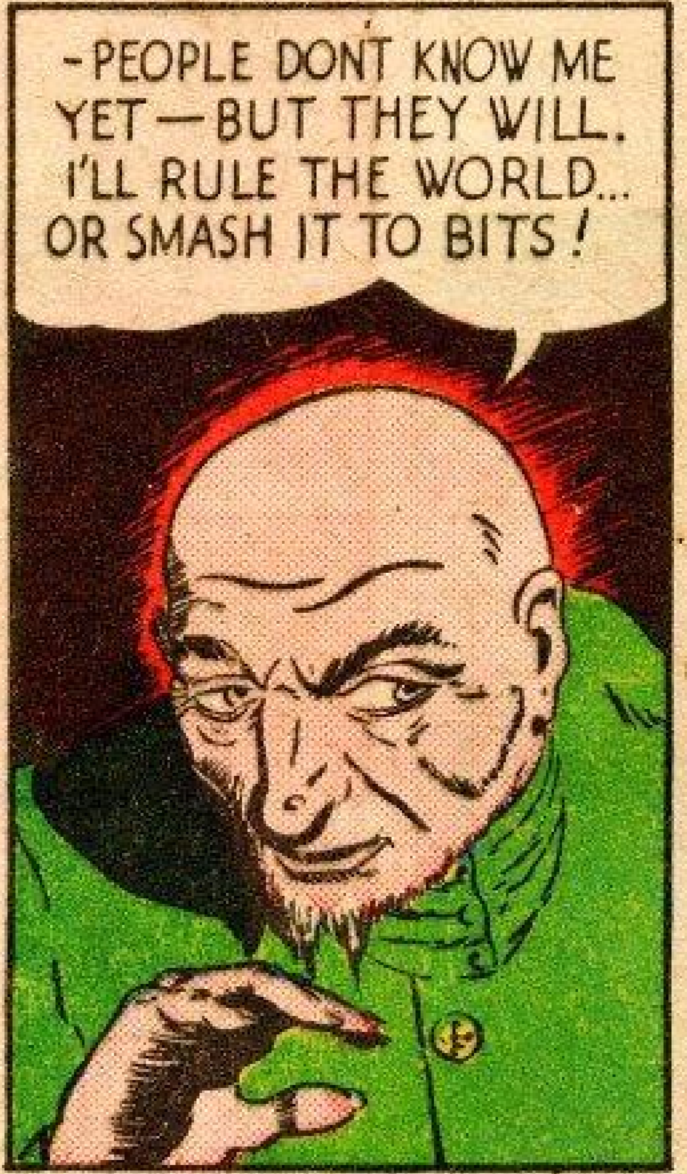

BUT HERCULES LEAPS FORWARD AND PITS HIS STRENGTH AGAINST THE TREMENDOUS PULL OF THE HEAVY CANVAS.

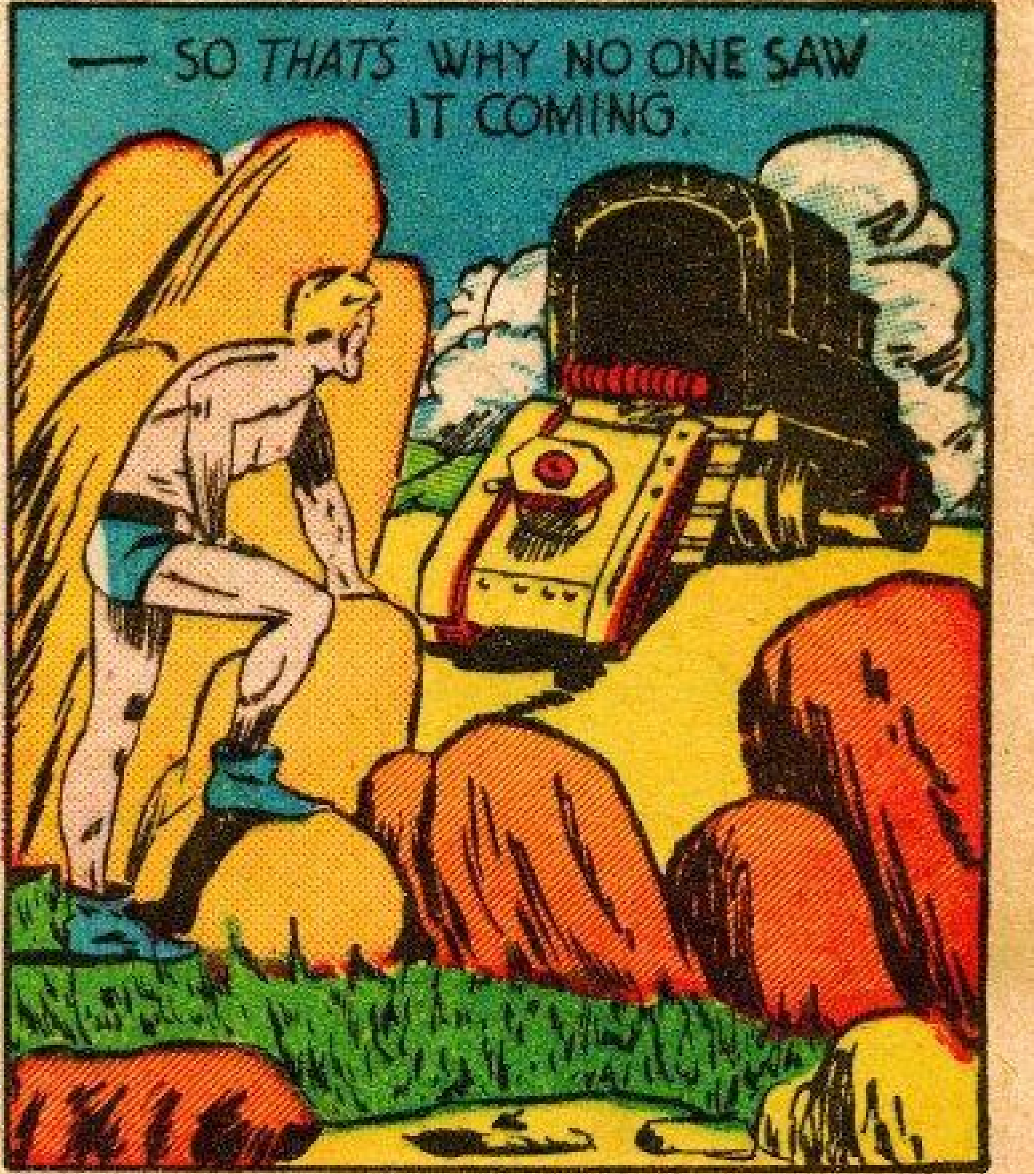

THE TERRIFIED AUDIENCE BECOMES A SCREAMING, TRAMPLING MOB!
COME HERE AND GRAB THIS POLE! I'VE GOT TO HELP THOSE PEOPLE—
SWINGING HIGH OVER THE HEADS OF THE CROWD, HERCULES KNIFES THROUGH THE SIDE OF THE BIGTOP!
RIPPING AWAY THE SIDE OF THE TENT HERCULES FREES THE STAMPEDEING PEOPLE.
—AND RUSHES BACK TO HELP REPLACE THE BROKEN CENTER POLE.
I'LL TAKE IT. GET SOME STAKES AND WIRE TO BRACE IT—
AN HOUR LATER: HERCULES TAKES A WALK WITH A FRIEND—
IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN AN EARTHQUAKE—ONLY THIS AREA WAS SHAKEN. THOSE HOUSES OVER THERE WERE UNDAMAGED.
DID YOU HEAR SOMETHING?
YES! SOUNDS LIKE IT'S UNDER MY FEET!

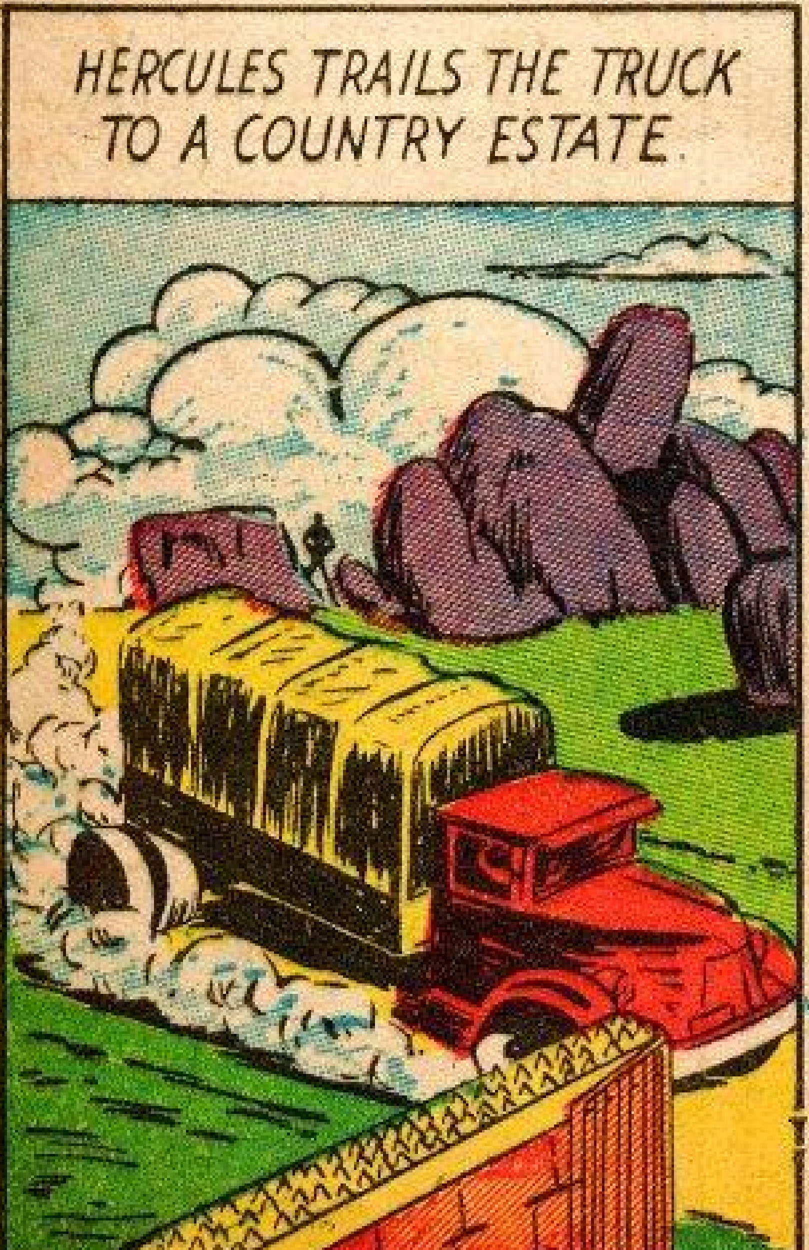

A HUGE TANK-LIKE MACHINE FORCES IT'S WAY UP THROUGH THE EARTH!
WHAT IS IT?

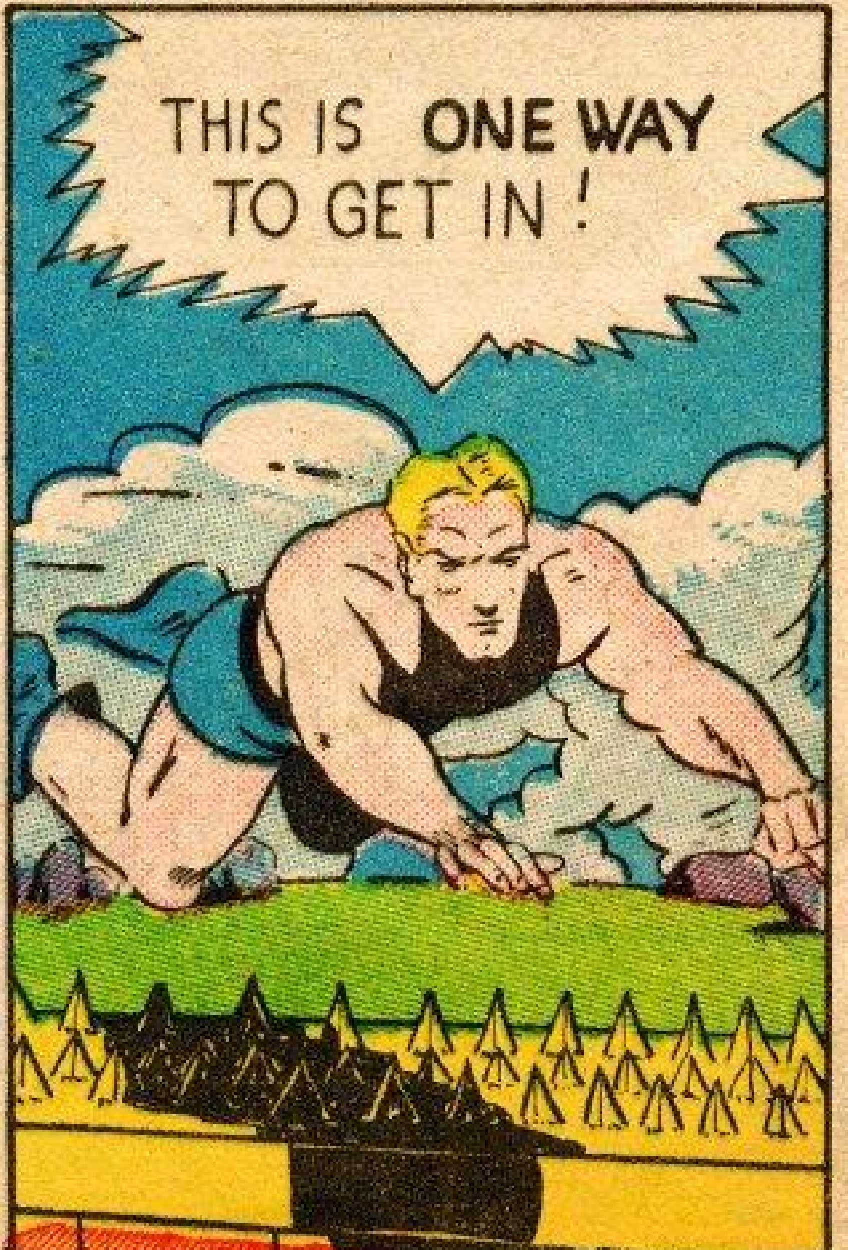

THAT'S THE THING THAT CAUSED THE TROUBLE — I'M GOING TO FOLLOW IT.
YOU'LL GET HURT!

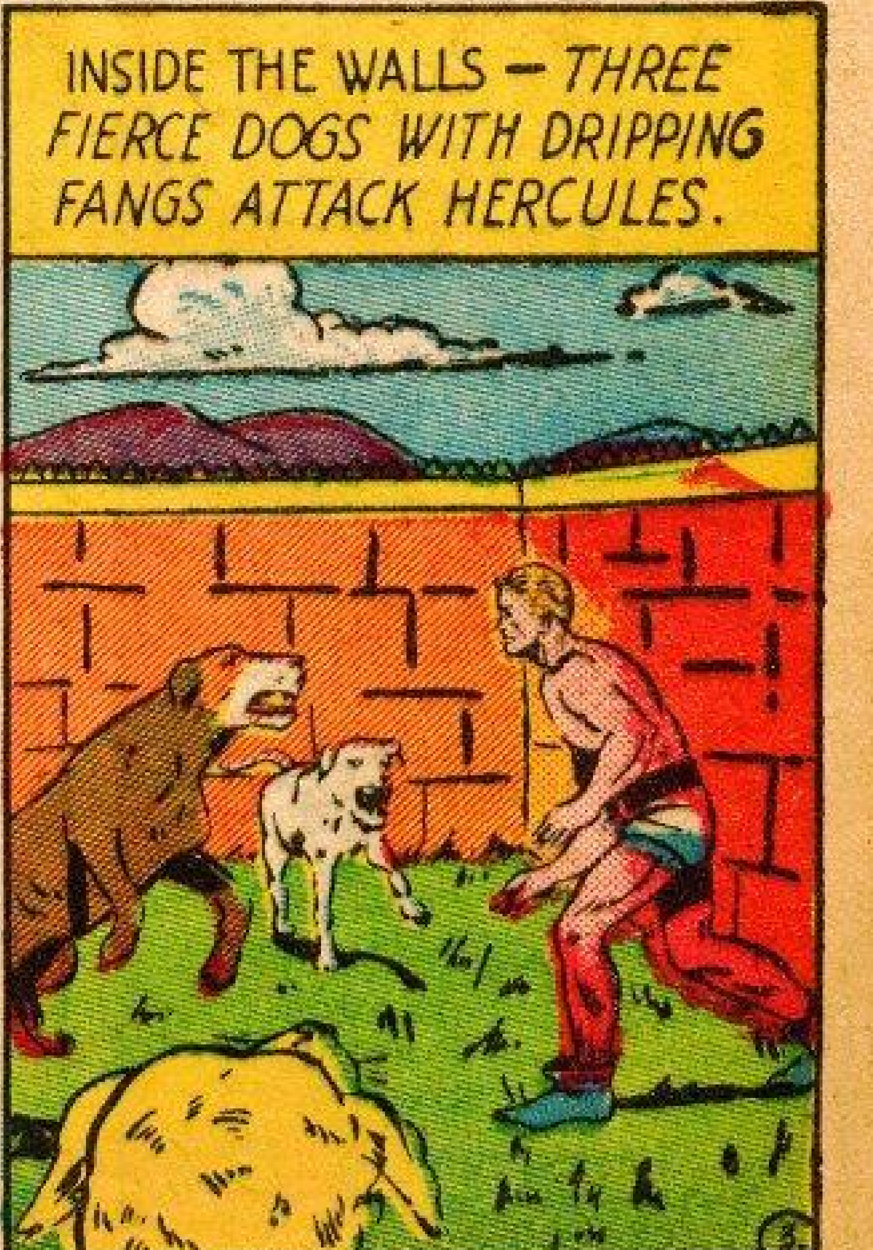

LEMO INVENTOR OF THE MECHANICAL MONSTER IS AT THE CONTROLS ...
IT WORKS, IT WORKS! LOOK AT THOSE RUINS.
YOU ARE A GENIUS.

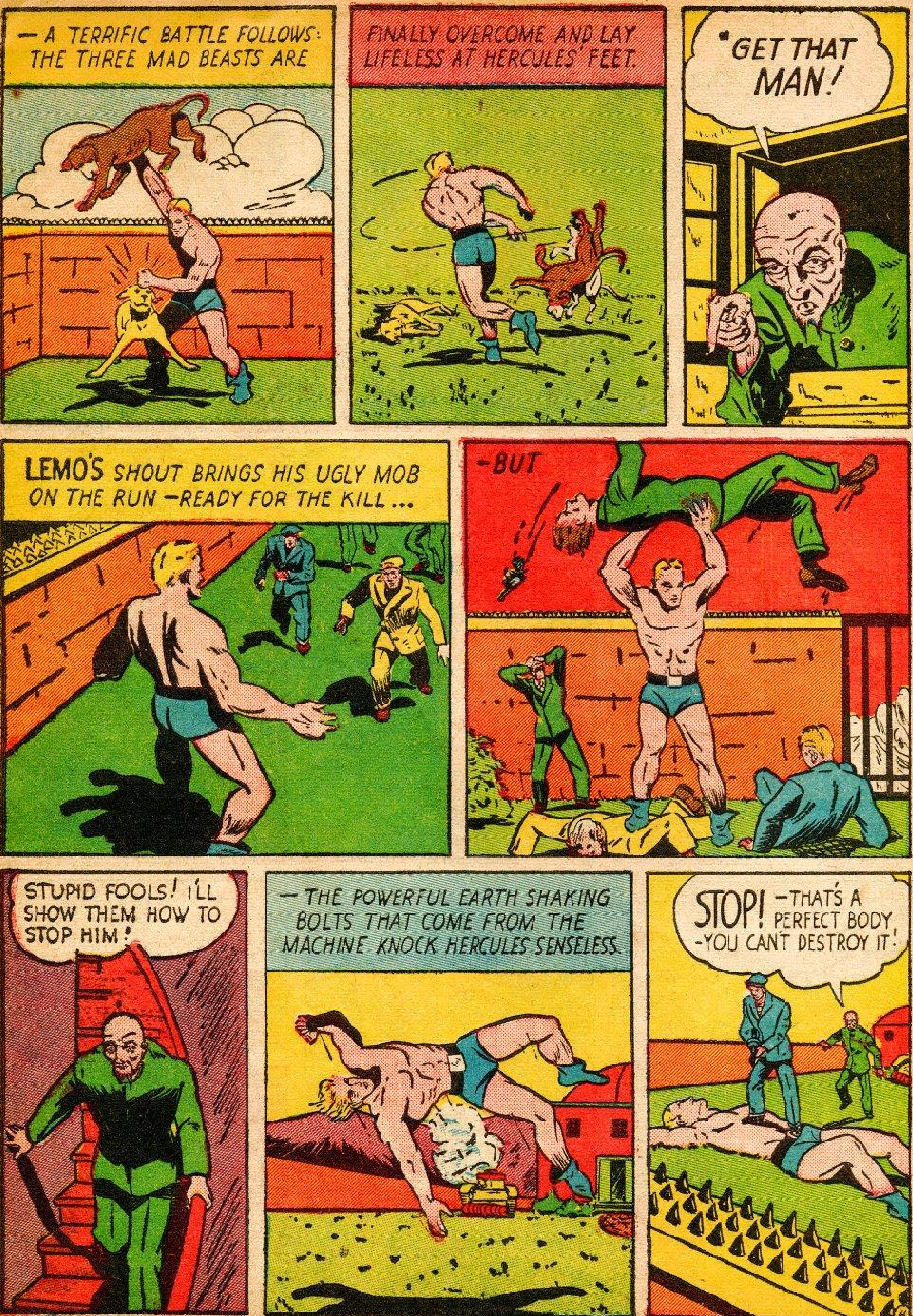

-PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ME YET — BUT THEY WILL. I'LL RULE THE WORLD... OR SMASH IT TO BITS!

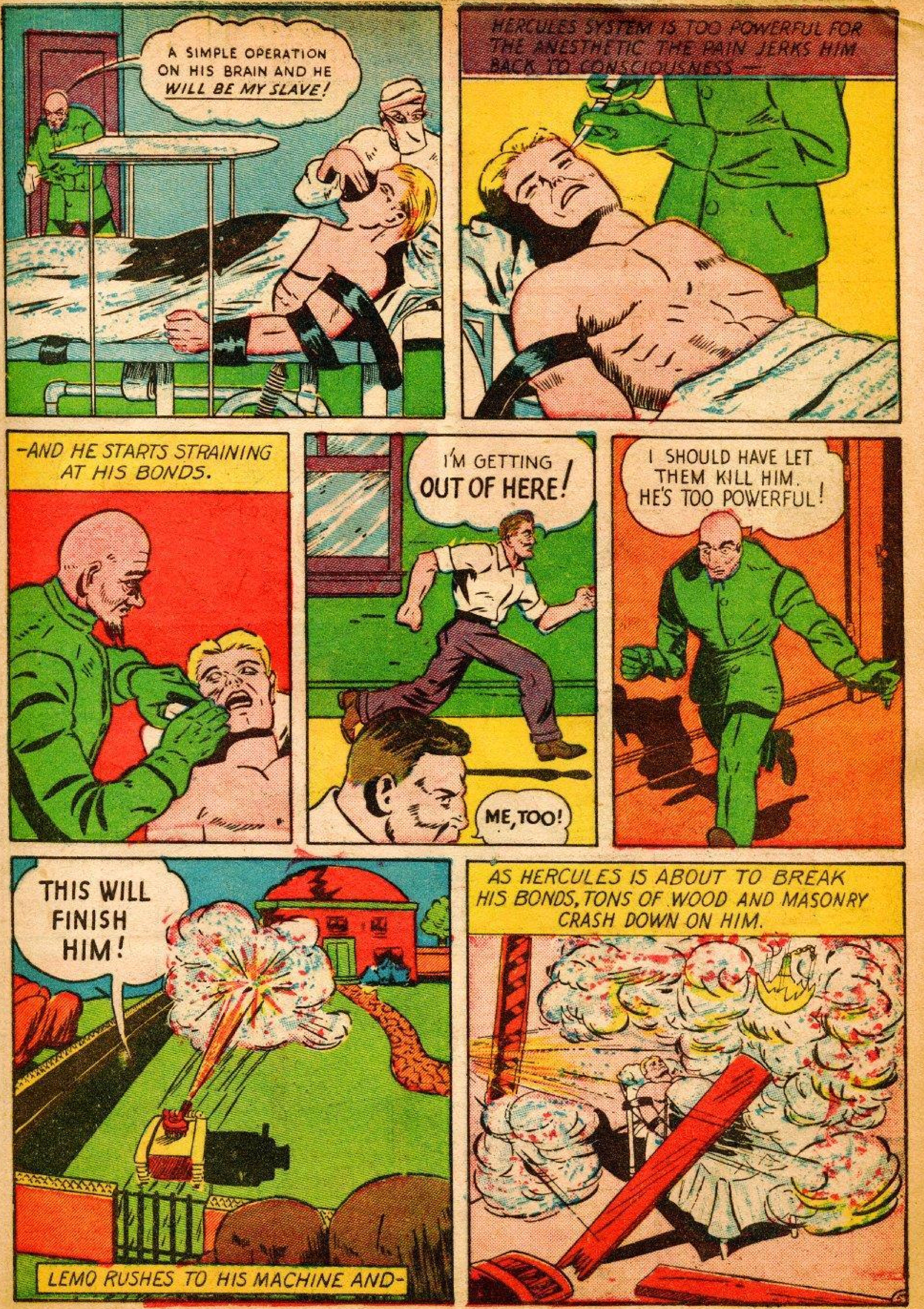

— SO THAT'S WHY NO ONE SAW IT COMING.

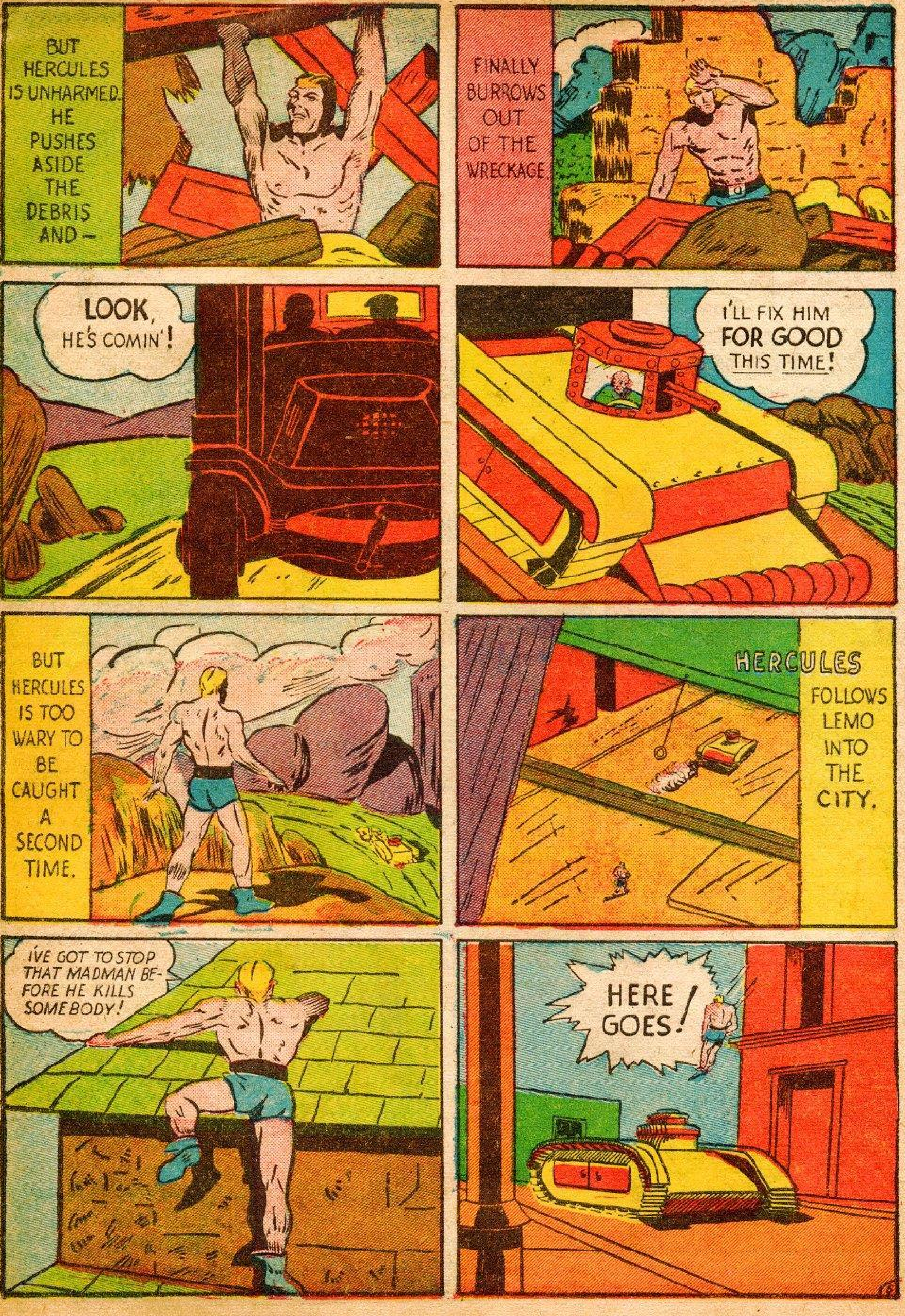

HERCULES TRAILS THE TRUCK TO A COUNTRY ESTATE.

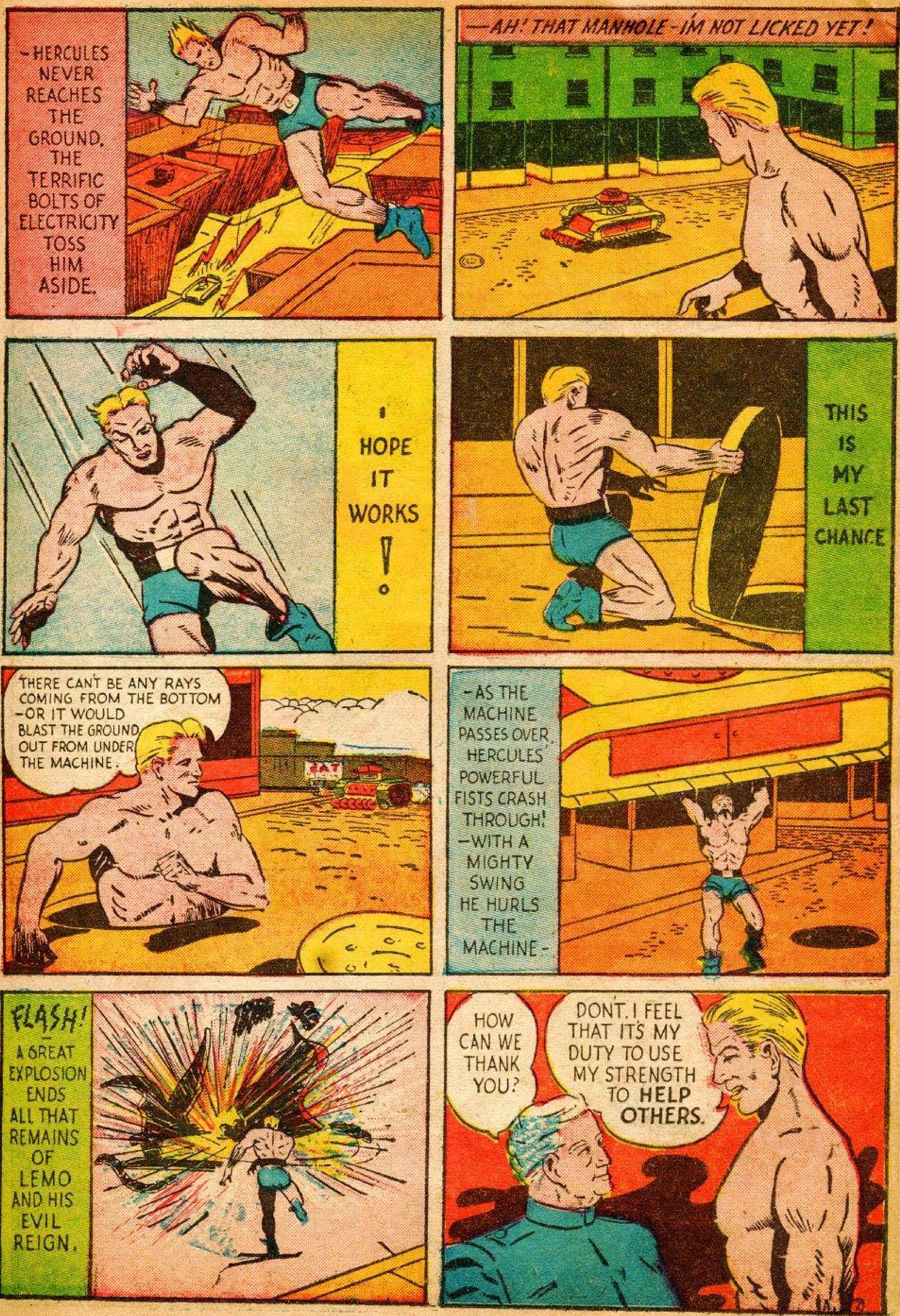

THIS IS ONE WAY TO GET IN!

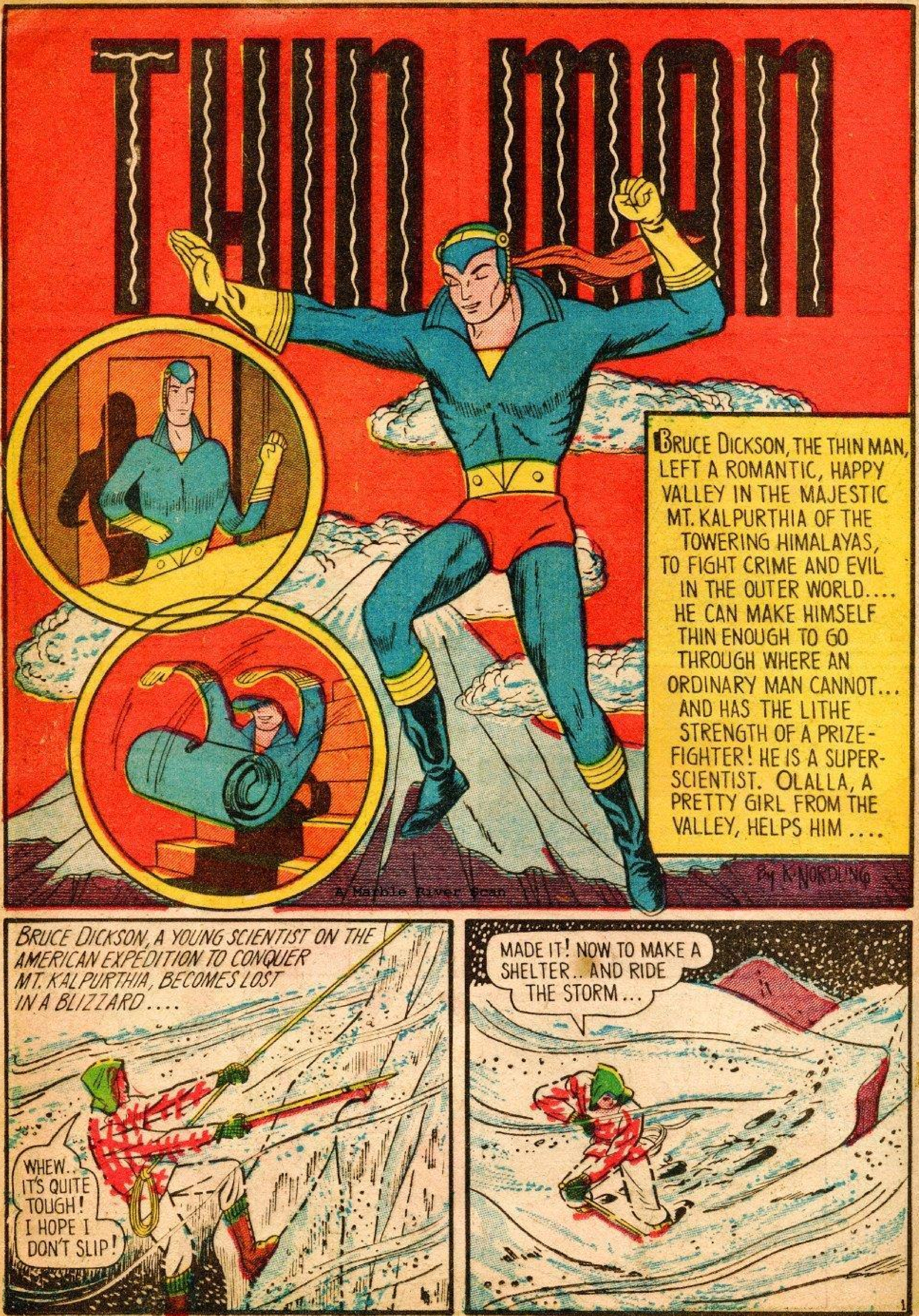

INSIDE THE WALLS — THREE FIERCE DOGS WITH DRIPPING FANGS ATTACK HERCULES.


—A TERRIFIC BATTLE FOLLOWS: THE THREE MAD BEASTS ARE
FINALLY OVERCOME AND LAY LIFELESS AT HERCULES' FEET.
"GET THAT MAN!
LEMO'S SHOUT BRINGS HIS UGLY MOB ON THE RUN —READY FOR THE KILL ...
—BUT
STUPID FOOLS! I'LL SHOW THEM HOW TO STOP HIM!
— THE POWERFUL EARTH SHAKING BOLTS THAT COME FROM THE MACHINE KNOCK HERCULES SENSELESS.
STOP! —THAT'S A PERFECT BODY -YOU CAN'T DESTROY IT!

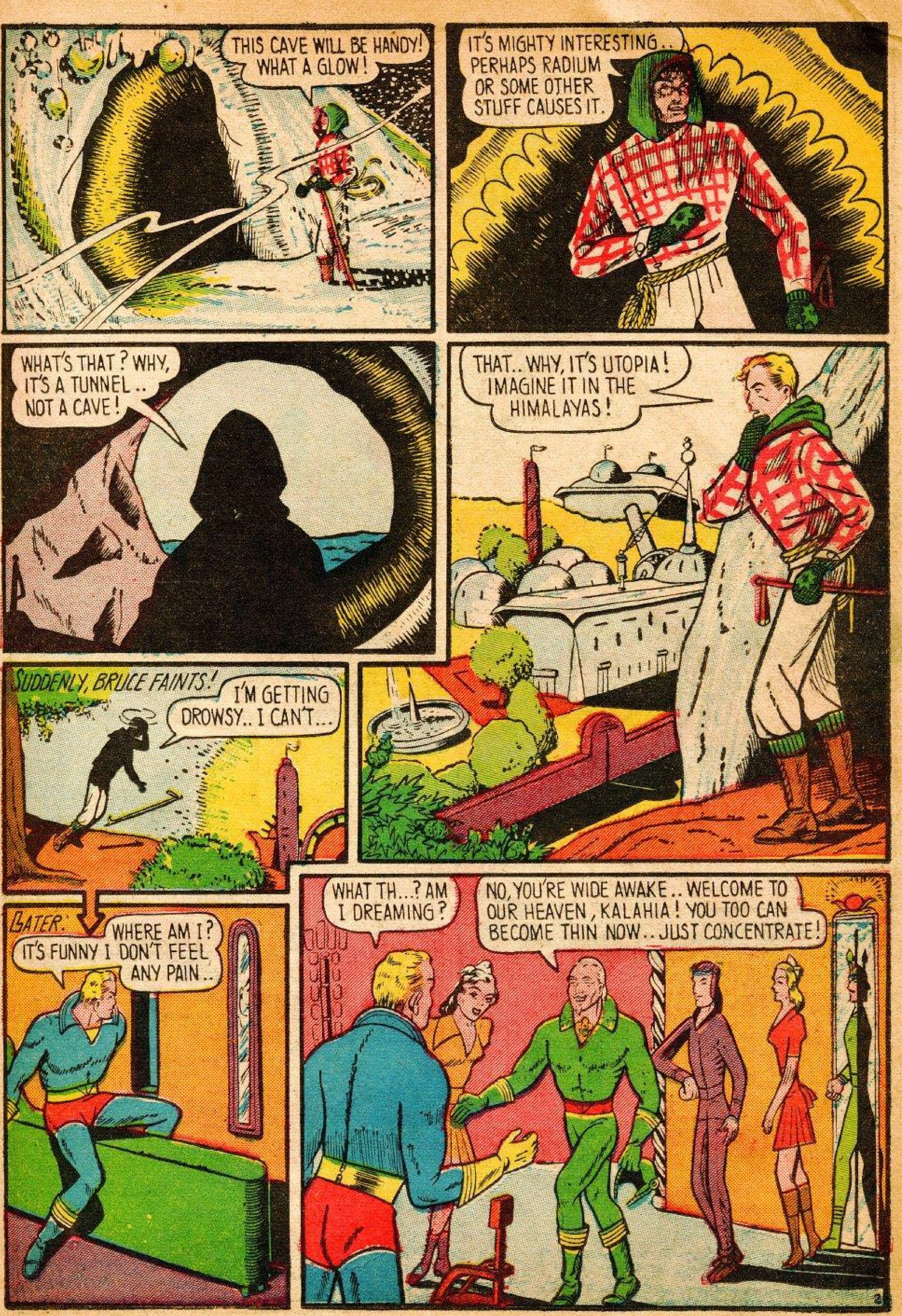

A SIMPLE OPERATION ON HIS BRAIN AND HE WILL BE MY SLAVE!
HERCULES SYSTEM IS TOO POWERFUL FOR THE ANESTHETIC THE PAIN JERKS HIM BACK TO CONSCIOUSNESS —
-AND HE STARTS STRAINING AT HIS BONDS.
I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE!
ME, TOO!
I SHOULD HAVE LET THEM KILL HIM. HE'S TOO POWERFUL!
THIS WILL FINISH HIM!
LEMO RUSHES TO HIS MACHINE AND-
AS HERCULES IS ABOUT TO BREAK HIS BONDS, TONS OF WOOD AND MASONRY CRASH DOWN ON HIM.

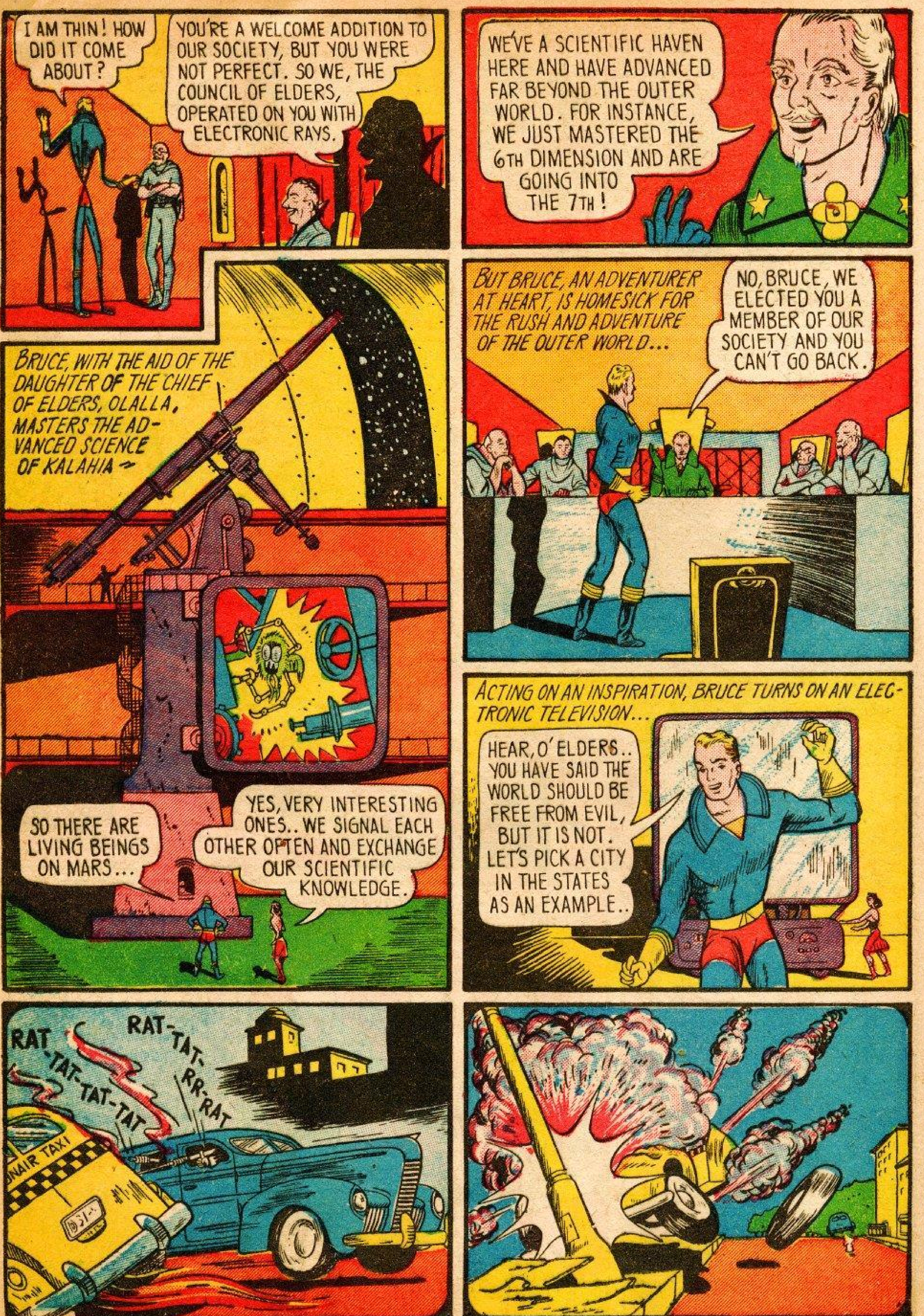

BUT HERCULES IS UNHARMED. HE PUSHES ASIDE THE DEBRIS AND –
FINALLY BURROWS OUT OF THE WRECKAGE.
LOOK, HE'S COMIN'!
I'LL FIX HIM FOR GOOD THIS TIME!
BUT HERCULES IS TOO WARY TO BE CAUGHT A SECOND TIME.
HERCULES FOLLOWS LEMO INTO THE CITY.
I'VE GOT TO STOP THAT MADMAN BEFORE HE KILLS SOMEBODY!
HERE GOES!

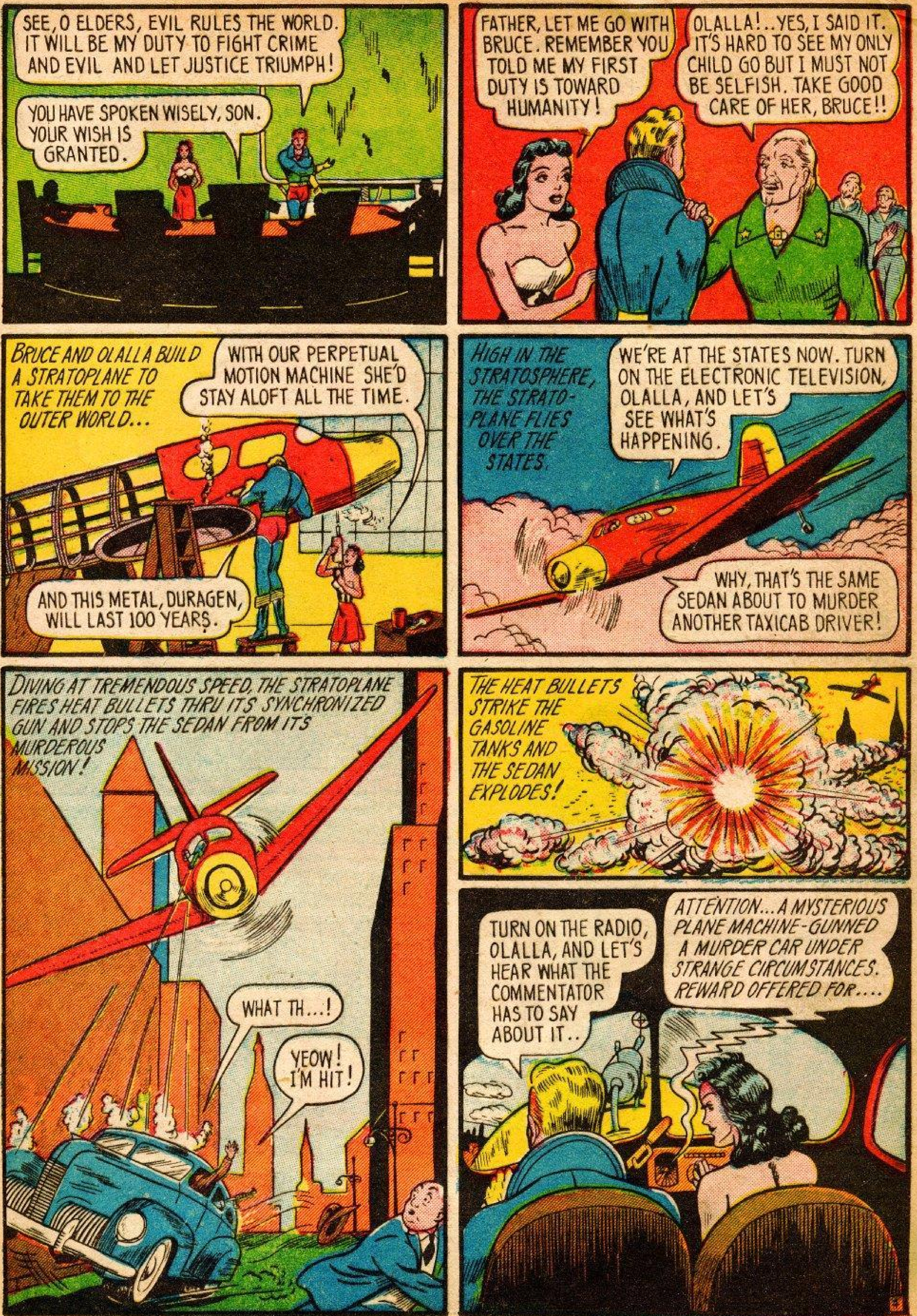

—HERCULES NEVER REACHES THE GROUND. THE TERRIFIC BOLTS OF ELECTRICITY TOSS HIM ASIDE.
—AH! THAT MANHOLE—I'M NOT LICKED YET!
I HOPE IT WORKS!
THIS IS MY LAST CHANCE
THERE CAN'T BE ANY RAYS COMING FROM THE BOTTOM —OR IT WOULD BLAST THE GROUND OUT FROM UNDER THE MACHINE.
EAT
—AS THE MACHINE PASSES OVER, HERCULES' POWERFUL FISTS CRASH THROUGH! —WITH A MIGHTY SWING HE HURLS THE MACHINE—
FLASH! A GREAT EXPLOSION ENDS ALL THAT REMAINS OF LEMO AND HIS EVIL REIGN.
HOW CAN WE THANK YOU?
DONT. I FEEL THAT ITS MY DUTY TO USE MY STRENGTH TO HELP OTHERS.

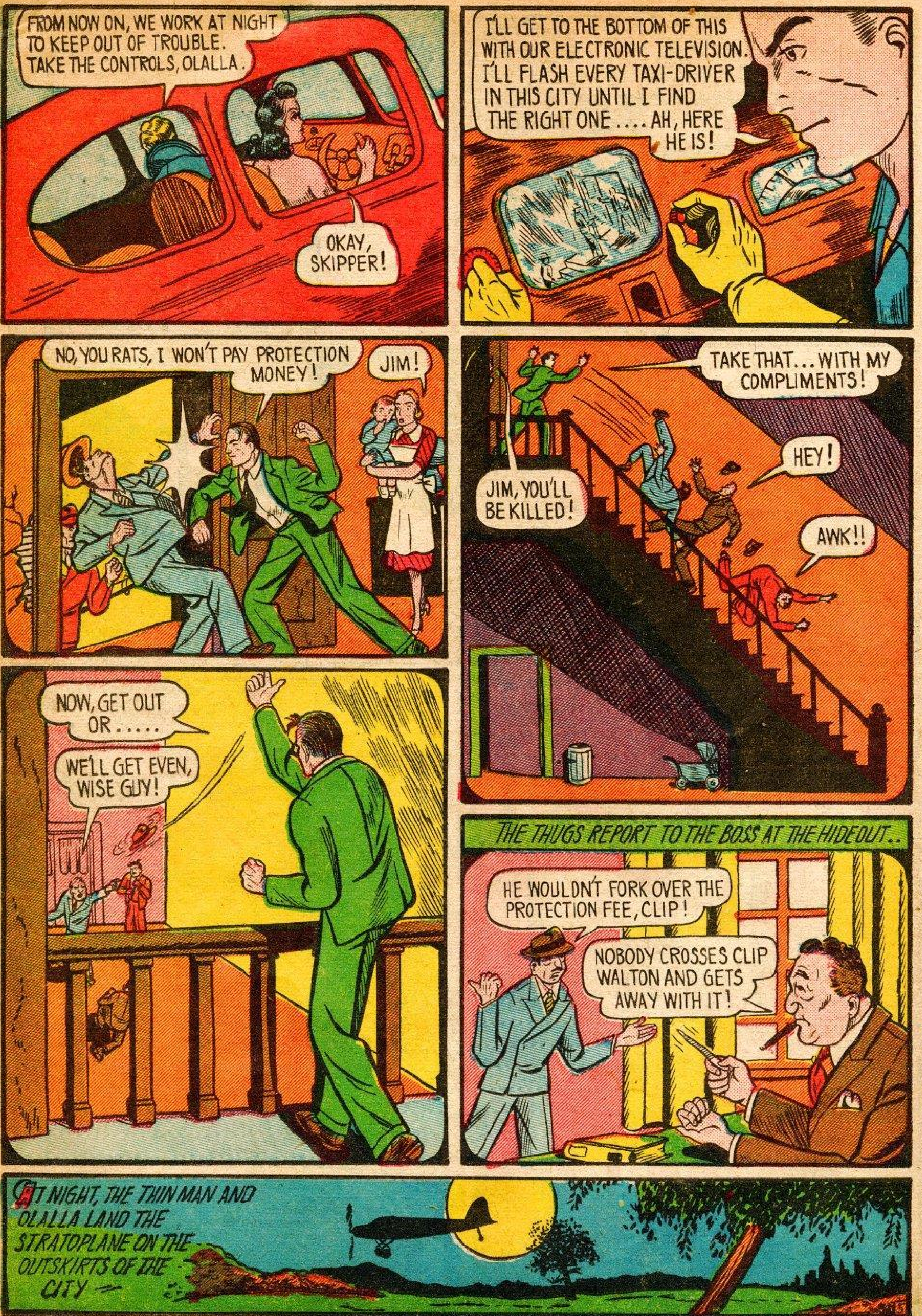

THIN MAN
BRUCE DICKSON, THE THIN MAN, LEFT A ROMANTIC, HAPPY VALLEY IN THE MAJESTIC MT. KALPURTHIA OF THE TOWERING HIMALAYAS, TO FIGHT CRIME AND EVIL IN THE OUTER WORLD.... HE CAN MAKE HIMSELF THIN ENOUGH TO GO THROUGH WHERE AN ORDINARY MAN CANNOT... AND HAS THE LITHE STRENGTH OF A PRIZE-FIGHTER! HE IS A SUPER-SCIENTIST. OLALLA, A PRETTY GIRL FROM THE VALLEY, HELPS HIM....
By K. NORDLING
BRUCE DICKSON, A YOUNG SCIENTIST ON THE AMERICAN EXPEDITION TO CONQUER MT. KALPURTHIA, BECOMES LOST IN A BLIZZARD....
WHEW.. IT'S QUITE TOUGH! I HOPE I DON'T SLIP!
MADE IT! NOW TO MAKE A SHELTER.. AND RIDE THE STORM...

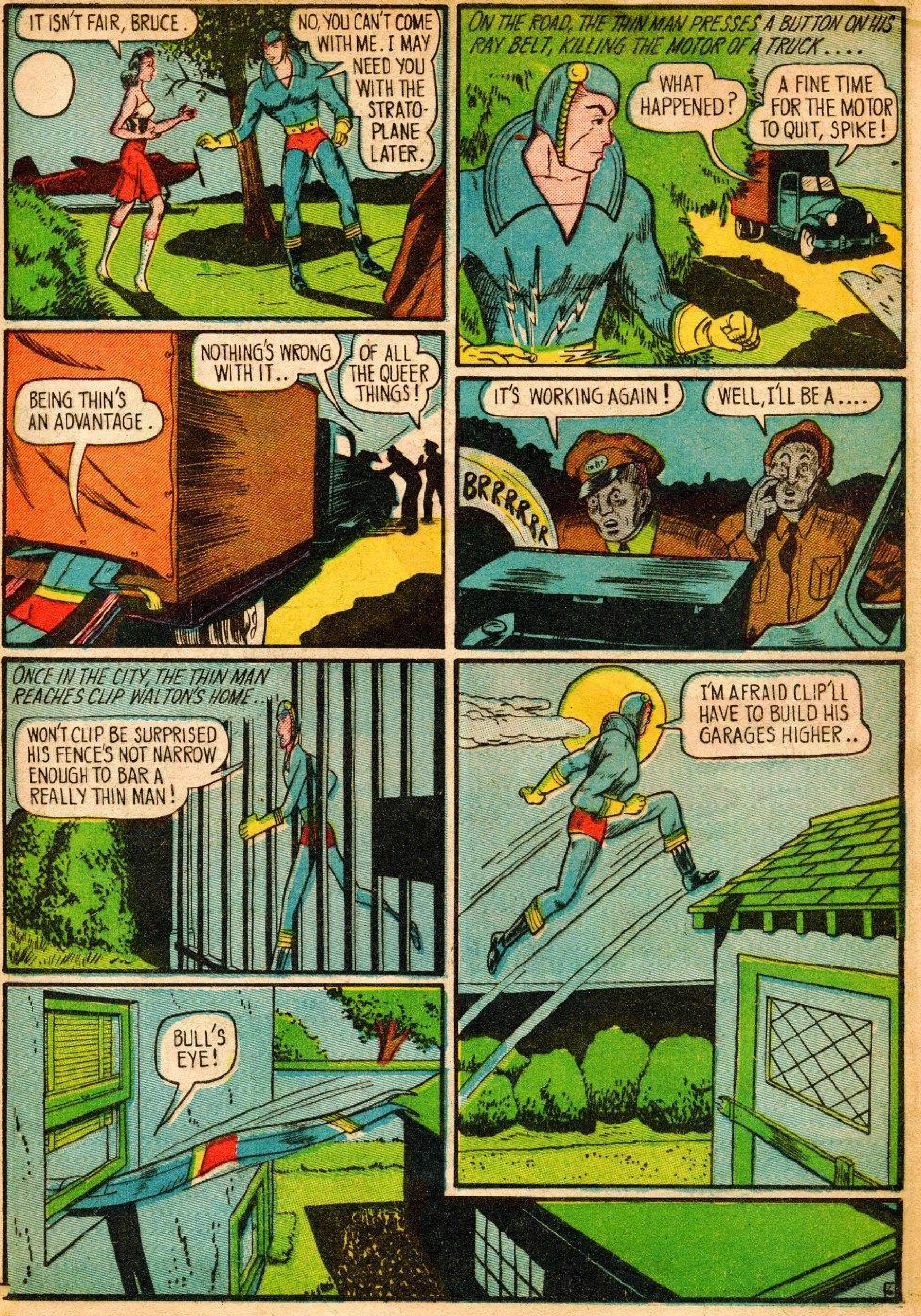
A Marble River Scan

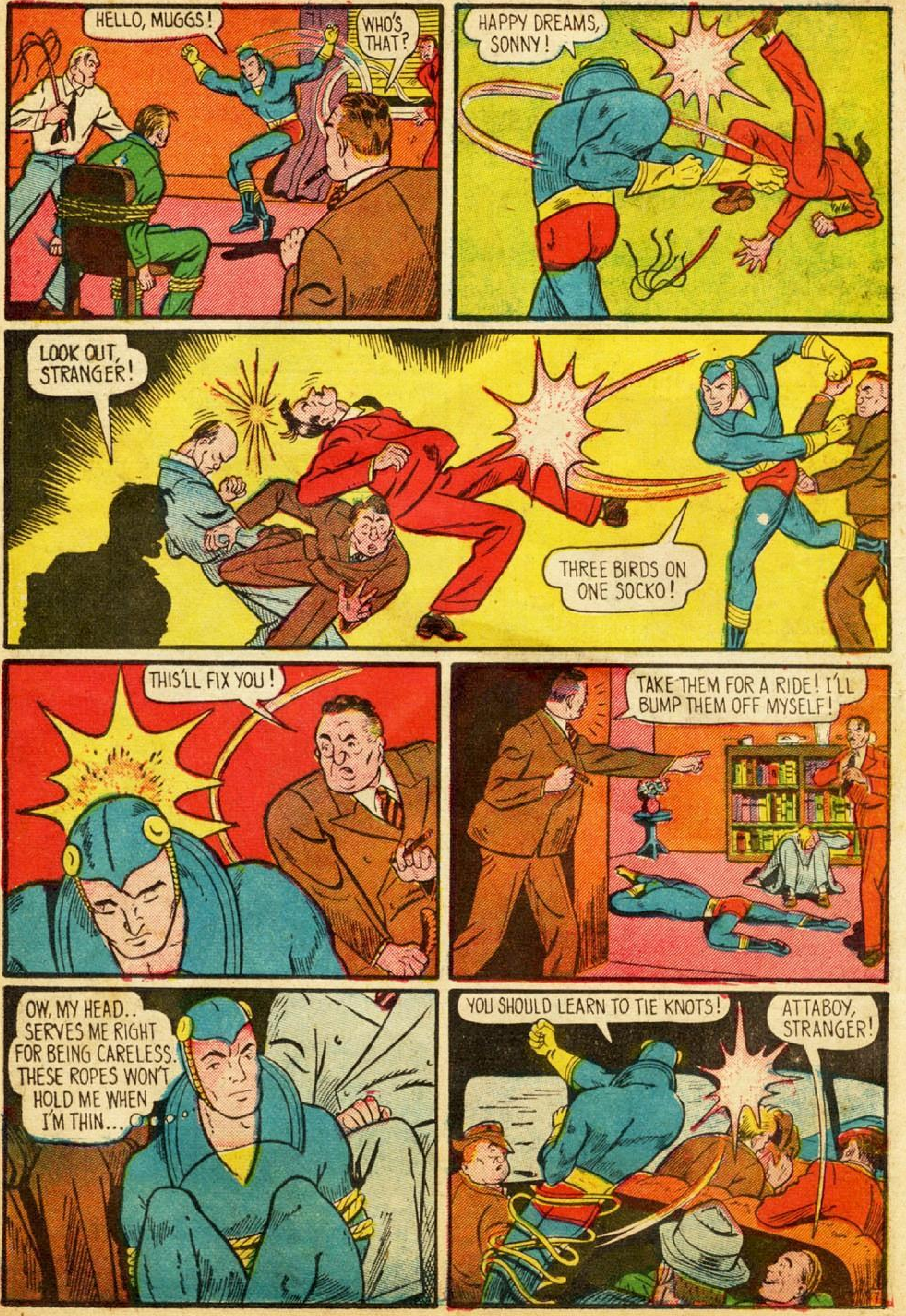

THIS CAVE WILL BE HANDY! WHAT A GLOW!
IT'S MIGHTY INTERESTING.. PERHAPS RADIUM OR SOME OTHER STUFF CAUSES IT.
WHAT'S THAT? WHY, IT'S A TUNNEL.. NOT A CAVE!
THAT.. WHY, IT'S UTOPIA! IMAGINE IT IN THE HIMALAYAS!
SUDDENLY, BRUCE FAINTS!
I'M GETTING DROWSY.. I CAN'T...
LATER:
WHERE AM I? IT'S FUNNY I DON'T FEEL ANY PAIN..
WHAT TH...? AM I DREAMING?
NO, YOU'RE WIDE AWAKE.. WELCOME TO OUR HEAVEN, KALAHIA! YOU TOO CAN BECOME THIN NOW.. JUST CONCENTRATE!

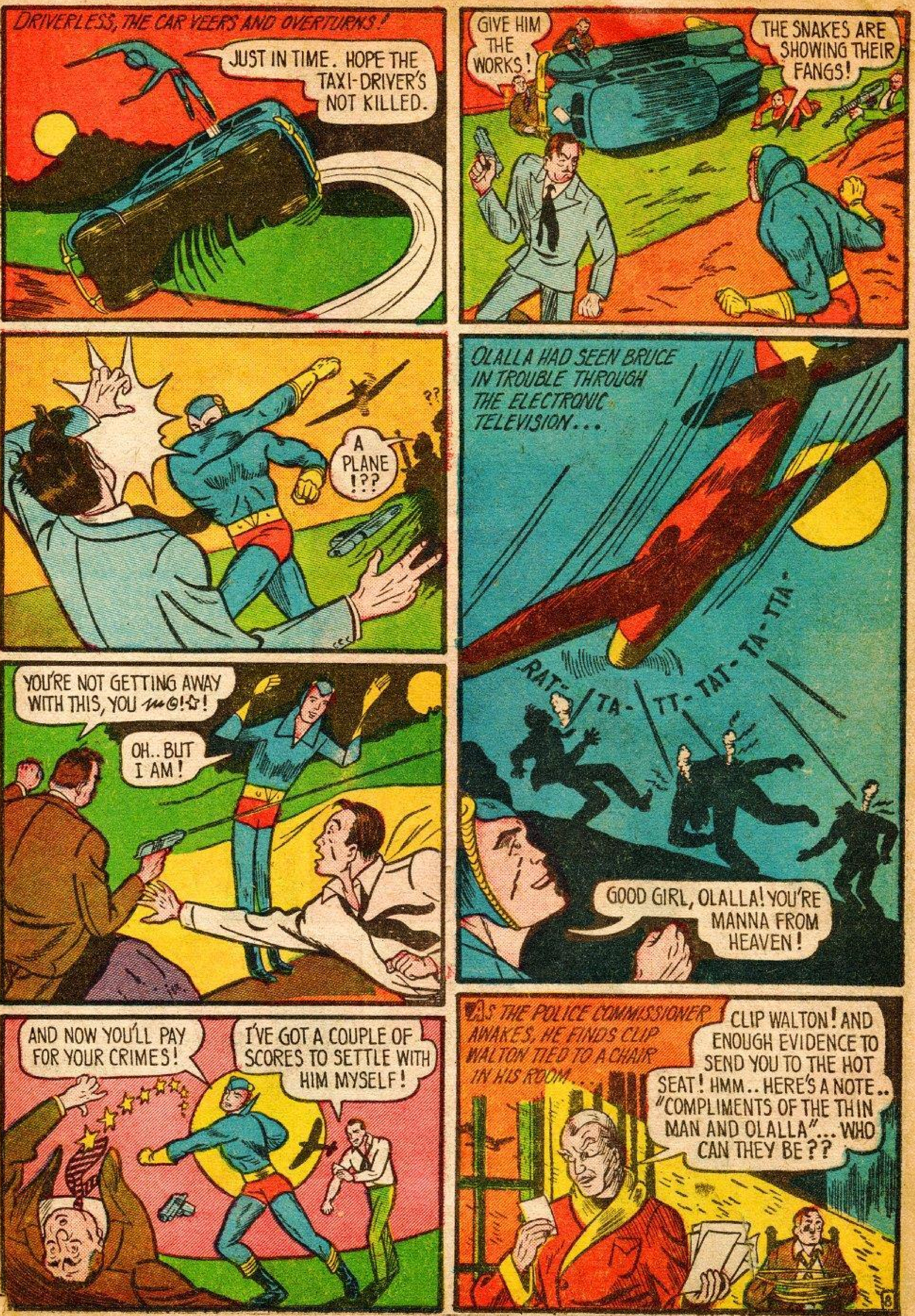

I AM THIN! HOW DID IT COME ABOUT?
YOU'RE A WELCOME ADDITION TO OUR SOCIETY, BUT YOU WERE NOT PERFECT. SO WE, THE COUNCIL OF ELDERS, OPERATED ON YOU WITH ELECTRONIC RAYS.
WE'VE A SCIENTIFIC HAVEN HERE AND HAVE ADVANCED FAR BEYOND THE OUTER WORLD. FOR INSTANCE, WE JUST MASTERED THE 6TH DIMENSION AND ARE GOING INTO THE 7TH!
BRUCE, WITH THE AID OF THE DAUGHTER OF THE CHIEF OF ELDERS, OLALLA, MASTERS THE ADVANCED SCIENCE OF KALAHIA ~
SO THERE ARE LIVING BEINGS ON MARS...
YES, VERY INTERESTING ONES.. WE SIGNAL EACH OTHER OFTEN AND EXCHANGE OUR SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE.
BUT BRUCE, AN ADVENTURER AT HEART, IS HOMESICK FOR THE RUSH AND ADVENTURE OF THE OUTER WORLD...
NO, BRUCE, WE ELECTED YOU A MEMBER OF OUR SOCIETY AND YOU CAN'T GO BACK.
ACTING ON AN INSPIRATION, BRUCE TURNS ON AN ELECTRONIC TELEVISION...
HEAR, O' ELDERS.. YOU HAVE SAID THE WORLD SHOULD BE FREE FROM EVIL, BUT IT IS NOT. LET'S PICK A CITY IN THE STATES AS AN EXAMPLE..
RAT-TAT-TAT-TAT
RAT-TAT-RR-RAT
NAIR TAXI

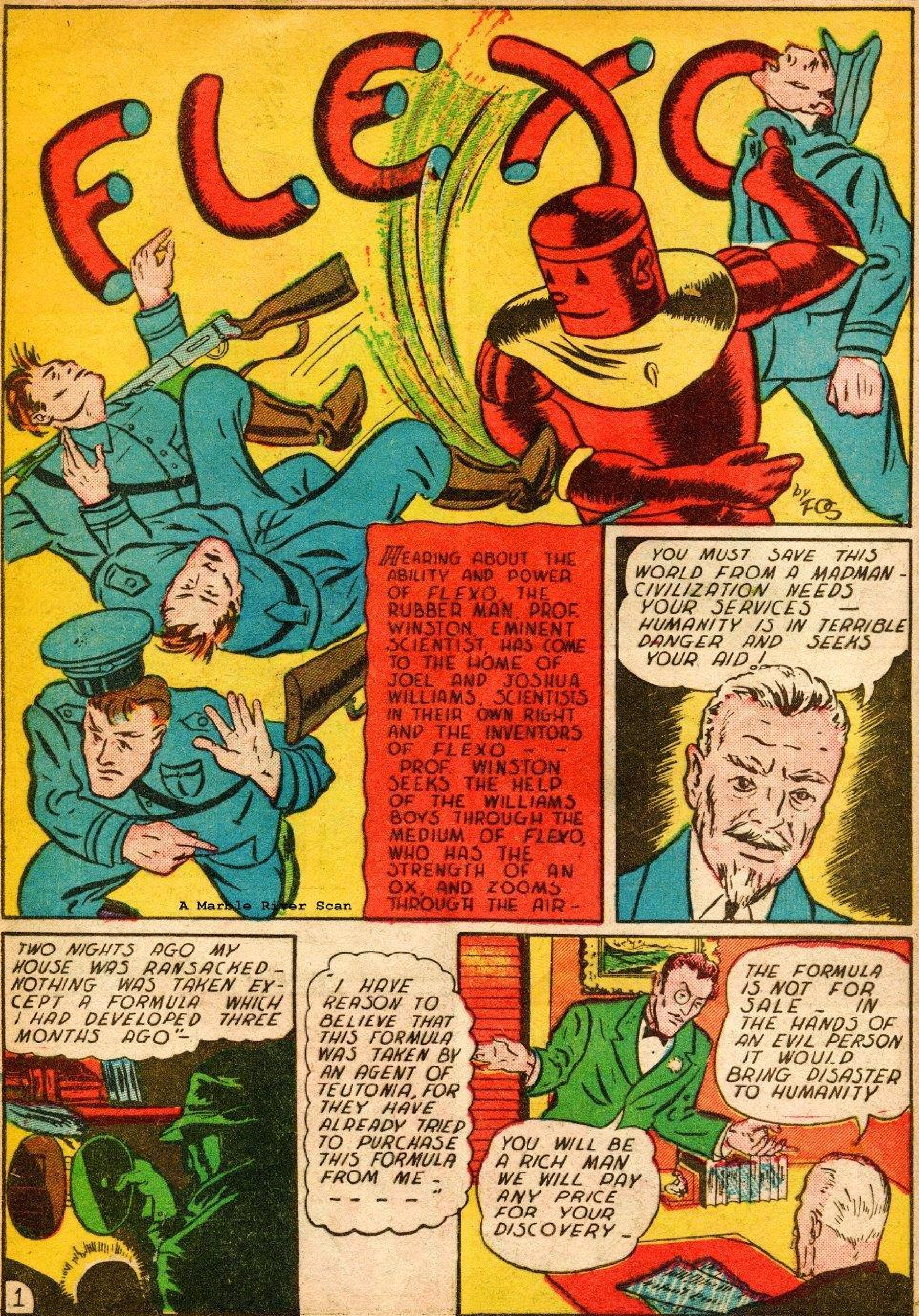

SEE, O ELDERS, EVIL RULES THE WORLD. IT WILL BE MY DUTY TO FIGHT CRIME AND EVIL AND LET JUSTICE TRIUMPH!
YOU HAVE SPOKEN WISELY, SON. YOUR WISH IS GRANTED.
FATHER, LET ME GO WITH BRUCE. REMEMBER YOU TOLD ME MY FIRST DUTY IS TOWARD HUMANITY!
OLALLA!..YES, I SAID IT. IT'S HARD TO SEE MY ONLY CHILD GO BUT I MUST NOT BE SELFISH. TAKE GOOD CARE OF HER, BRUCE!!
BRUCE AND OLALLA BUILD A STRATOPLANE TO TAKE THEM TO THE OUTER WORLD...
WITH OUR PERPETUAL MOTION MACHINE SHE'D STAY ALOFT ALL THE TIME.
AND THIS METAL, DURAGEN, WILL LAST 100 YEARS.
HIGH IN THE STRATOSPHERE, THE STRATOPLANE FLIES OVER THE STATES.
WE'RE AT THE STATES NOW. TURN ON THE ELECTRONIC TELEVISION, OLALLA, AND LET'S SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING.
WHY, THAT'S THE SAME SEDAN ABOUT TO MURDER ANOTHER TAXICAB DRIVER!
DIVING AT TREMENDOUS SPEED, THE STRATOPLANE FIRES HEAT BULLETS THRU ITS SYNCHRONIZED GUN AND STOPS THE SEDAN FROM ITS MURDEROUS MISSION!
WHAT TH...!
YEOW! I'M HIT!
THE HEAT BULLETS STRIKE THE GASOLINE TANKS AND THE SEDAN EXPLODES!
TURN ON THE RADIO, OLALLA, AND LET'S HEAR WHAT THE COMMENTATOR HAS TO SAY ABOUT IT..
ATTENTION...A MYSTERIOUS PLANE MACHINE-GUNNED A MURDER CAR UNDER STRANGE CIRCUMSTANCES. REWARD OFFERED FOR....


FROM NOW ON, WE WORK AT NIGHT TO KEEP OUT OF TROUBLE. TAKE THE CONTROLS, OLALLA.
OKAY, SKIPPER!
I'LL GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS WITH OUR ELECTRONIC TELEVISION. I'LL FLASH EVERY TAXI-DRIVER IN THIS CITY UNTIL I FIND THE RIGHT ONE .... AH, HERE HE IS!
NO, YOU RATS, I WON'T PAY PROTECTION MONEY!
JIM!
TAKE THAT... WITH MY COMPLIMENTS!
HEY!
JIM, YOU'LL BE KILLED!
AWK!!
NOW, GET OUT OR .....
WE'LL GET EVEN, WISE GUY!
THE THUGS REPORT TO THE BOSS AT THE HIDEOUT..
HE WOULDN'T FORK OVER THE PROTECTION FEE, CLIP!
NOBODY CROSSES CLIP WALTON AND GETS AWAY WITH IT!
AT NIGHT, THE THIN MAN AND OLALLA LAND THE STRATOPLANE ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY

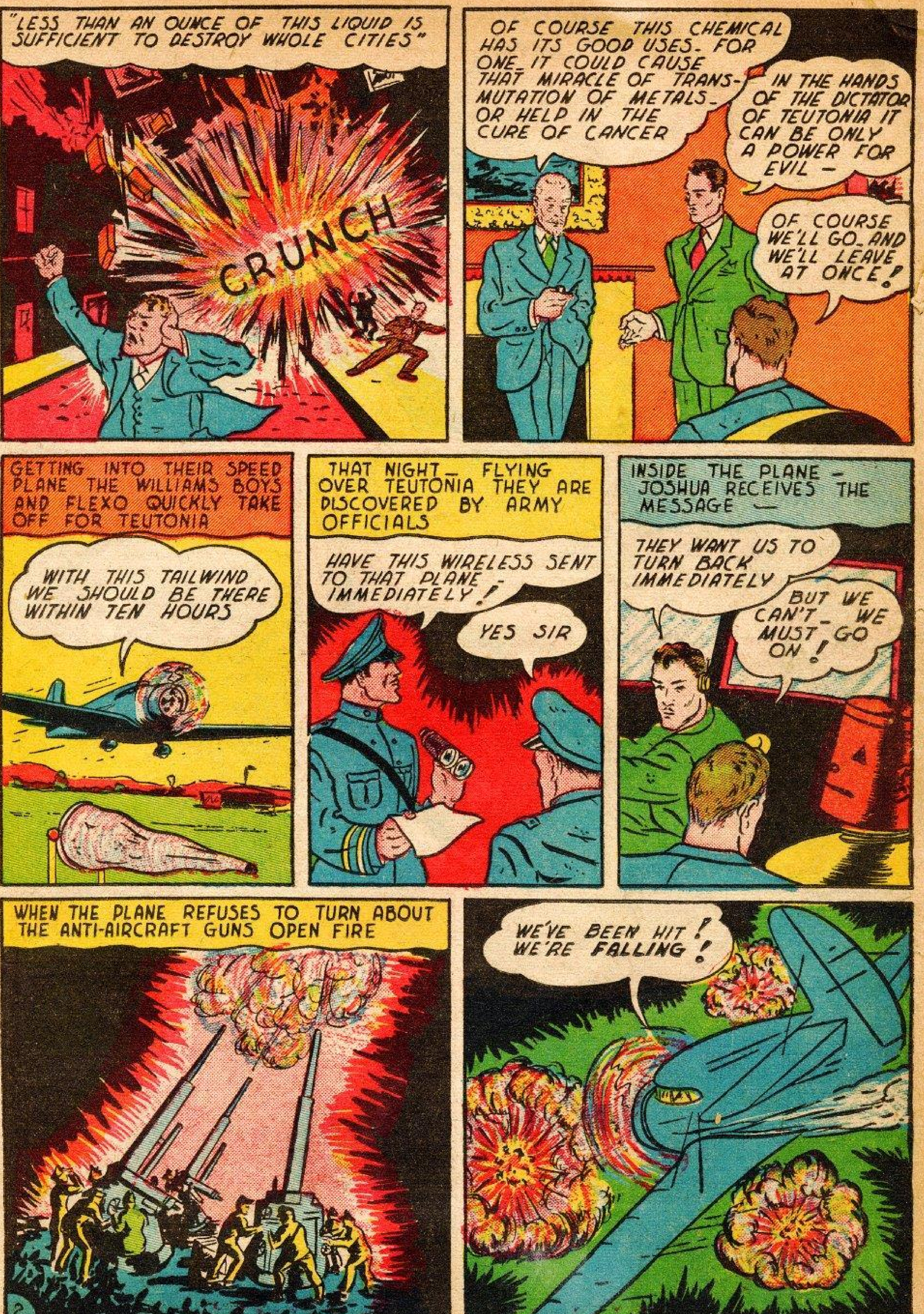

IT ISN'T FAIR, BRUCE.
NO, YOU CAN'T COME WITH ME. I MAY NEED YOU WITH THE STRATO-PLANE LATER.
ON THE ROAD, THE THIN MAN PRESSES A BUTTON ON HIS RAY BELT, KILLING THE MOTOR OF A TRUCK....
WHAT HAPPENED?
A FINE TIME FOR THE MOTOR TO QUIT, SPIKE!
NOTHING'S WRONG WITH IT..
OF ALL THE QUEER THINGS!
BEING THIN'S AN ADVANTAGE.
IT'S WORKING AGAIN!
WELL, I'LL BE A....
BRRRRRRR
ONCE IN THE CITY, THE THIN MAN REACHES CLIP WALTON'S HOME..
WON'T CLIP BE SURPRISED HIS FENCE'S NOT NARROW ENOUGH TO BAR A REALLY THIN MAN!
I'M AFRAID CLIP'LL HAVE TO BUILD HIS GARAGES HIGHER..
BULL'S EYE!

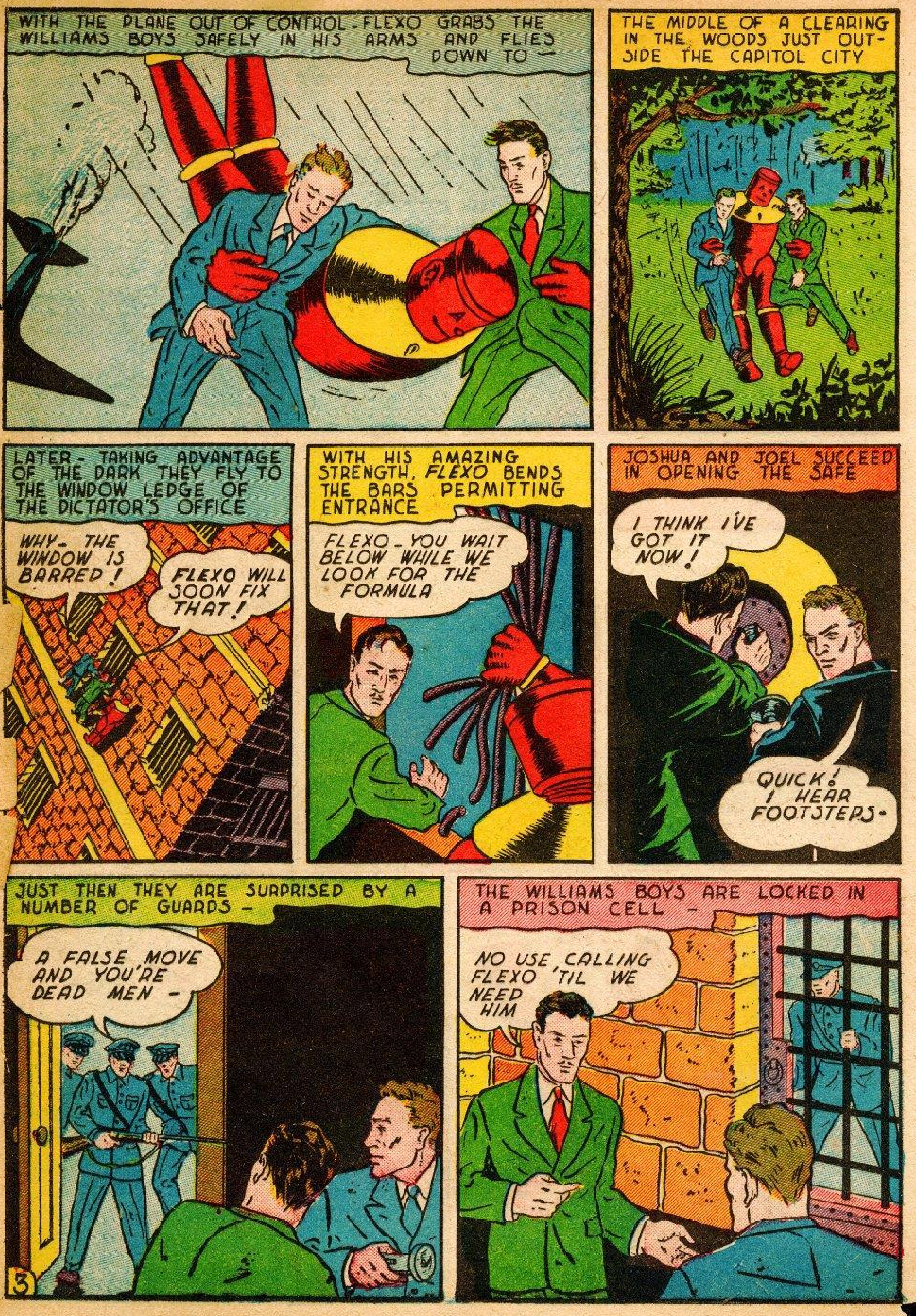

HELLO, MUGGS!
WHO'S THAT?
HAPPY DREAMS, SONNY!
LOOK OUT, STRANGER!
THREE BIRDS ON ONE SOCKO!
THIS'LL FIX YOU!
TAKE THEM FOR A RIDE! I'LL BUMP THEM OFF MYSELF!
OW, MY HEAD.. SERVES ME RIGHT FOR BEING CARELESS. THESE ROPES WON'T HOLD ME WHEN I'M THIN...
YOU SHOULD LEARN TO TIE KNOTS!
ATTABOY, STRANGER!

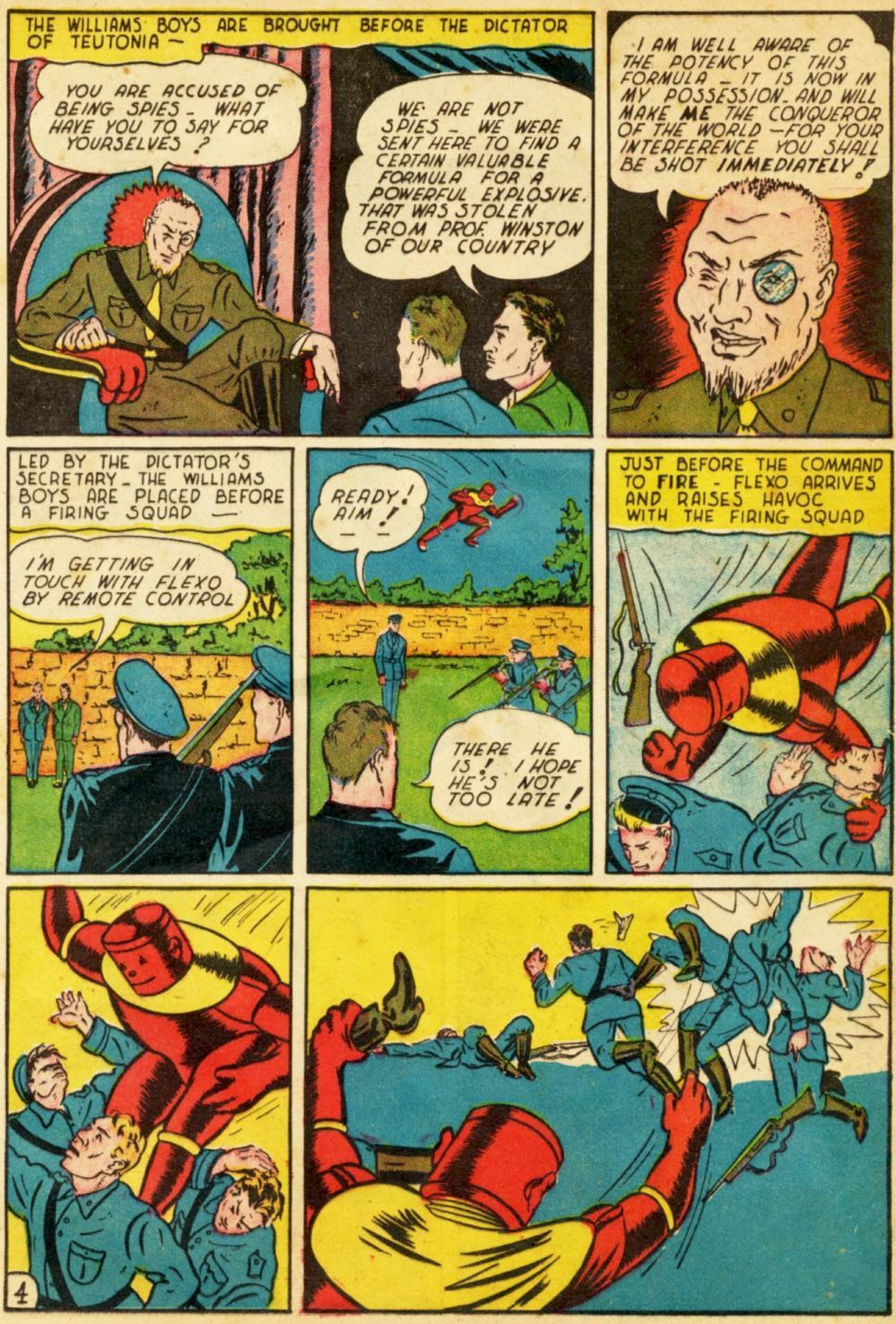

DRIVERLESS, THE CAR VEERS AND OVERTURNS!
JUST IN TIME. HOPE THE TAXI-DRIVER'S NOT KILLED.
GIVE HIM THE WORKS!
THE SNAKES ARE SHOWING THEIR FANGS!
??
A PLANE !??
OLALLA HAD SEEN BRUCE IN TROUBLE THROUGH THE ELECTRONIC TELEVISION...
RAT-TA-TT-TAT-TA-TTA-
YOU'RE NOT GETTING AWAY WITH THIS, YOU ✱@!✩!
OH.. BUT I AM!
GOOD GIRL, OLALLA! YOU'RE MANNA FROM HEAVEN!
AND NOW YOU'LL PAY FOR YOUR CRIMES!
I'VE GOT A COUPLE OF SCORES TO SETTLE WITH HIM MYSELF!
AS THE POLICE COMMISSIONER AWAKES, HE FINDS CLIP WALTON TIED TO A CHAIR IN HIS ROOM...
CLIP WALTON! AND ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO SEND YOU TO THE HOT SEAT! HMM.. HERE'S A NOTE.. "COMPLIMENTS OF THE THIN MAN AND OLALLA"... WHO CAN THEY BE??

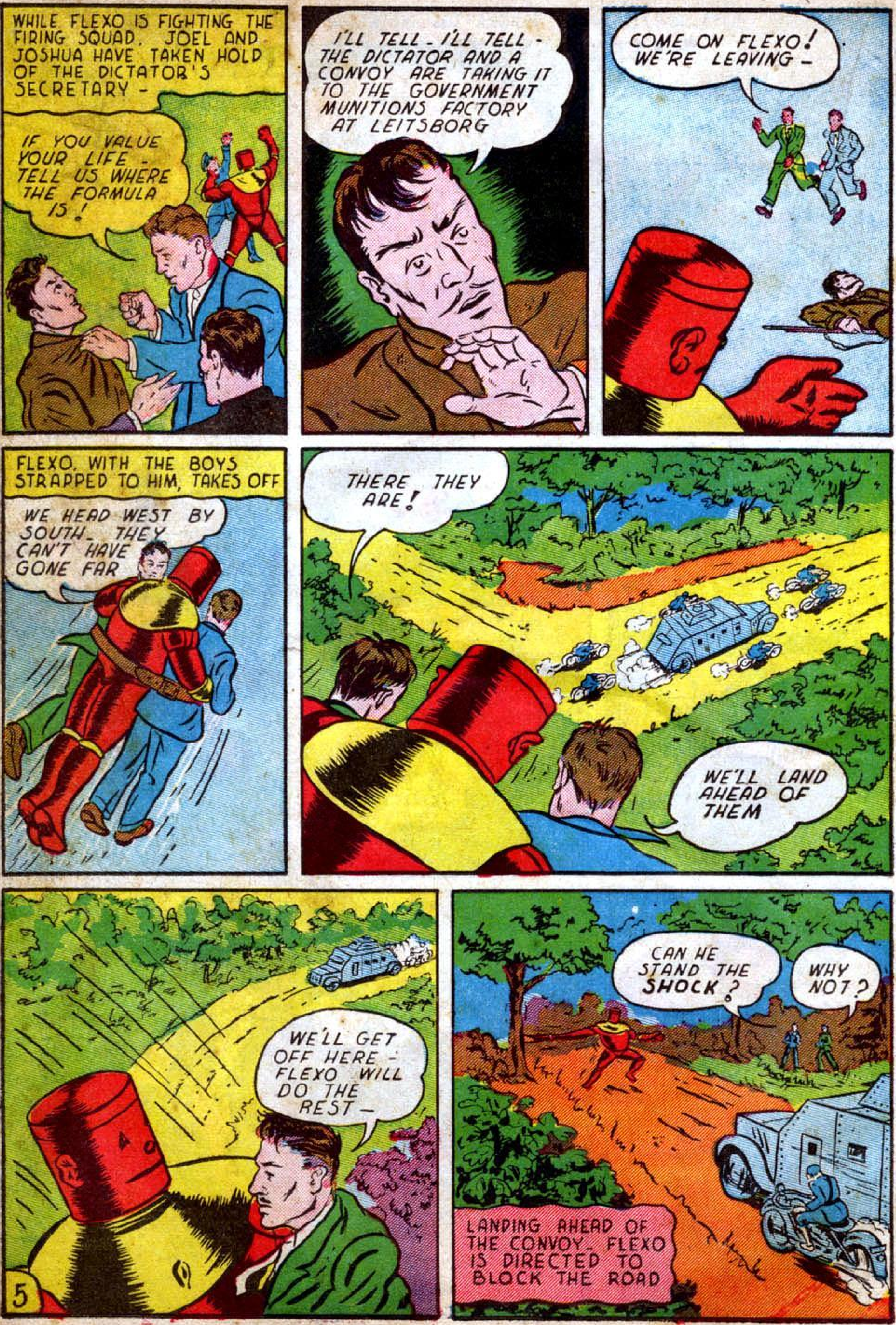

FLEXO
by FOS
HEARING ABOUT THE ABILITY AND POWER OF FLEXO, THE RUBBER MAN, PROF WINSTON, EMINENT SCIENTIST, HAS COME TO THE HOME OF JOEL AND JOSHUA WILLIAMS, SCIENTISTS IN THEIR OWN RIGHT AND THE INVENTORS OF FLEXO - - PROF WINSTON SEEKS THE HELP OF THE WILLIAMS BOYS THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF FLEXO, WHO HAS THE STRENGTH OF AN OX, AND ZOOMS THROUGH THE AIR -
YOU MUST SAVE THIS WORLD FROM A MADMAN - CIVILIZATION NEEDS YOUR SERVICES — HUMANITY IS IN TERRIBLE DANGER AND SEEKS YOUR AID!
TWO NIGHTS AGO MY HOUSE WAS RANSACKED - NOTHING WAS TAKEN EXCEPT A FORMULA WHICH I HAD DEVELOPED THREE MONTHS AGO" -
"I HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THIS FORMULA WAS TAKEN BY AN AGENT OF TEUTONIA, FOR THEY HAVE ALREADY TRIED TO PURCHASE THIS FORMULA FROM ME - - - - - "
YOU WILL BE A RICH MAN WE WILL PAY ANY PRICE FOR YOUR DISCOVERY -
THE FORMULA IS NOT FOR SALE - IN THE HANDS OF AN EVIL PERSON IT WOULD BRING DISASTER TO HUMANITY

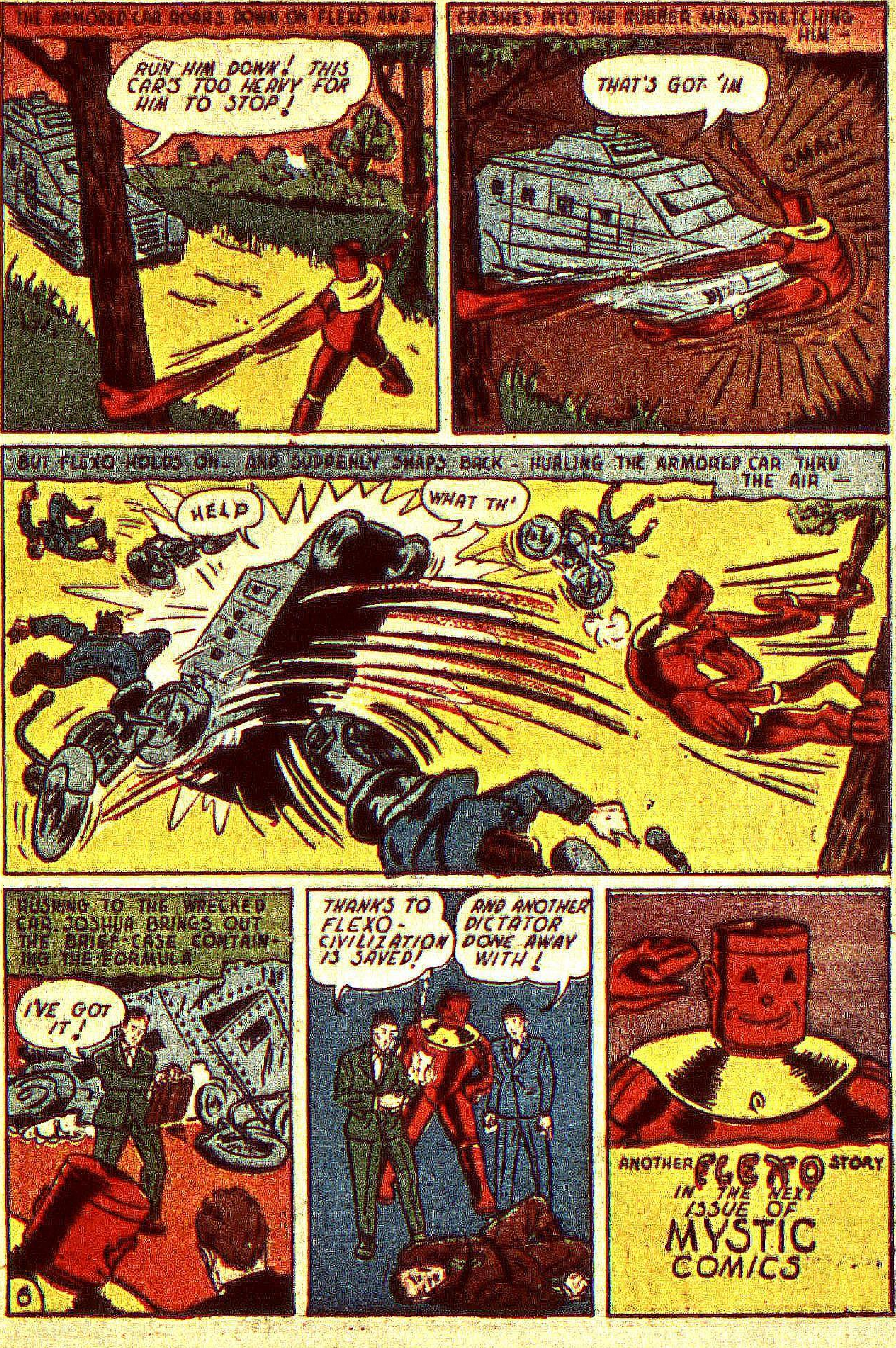
A Marble River Scan

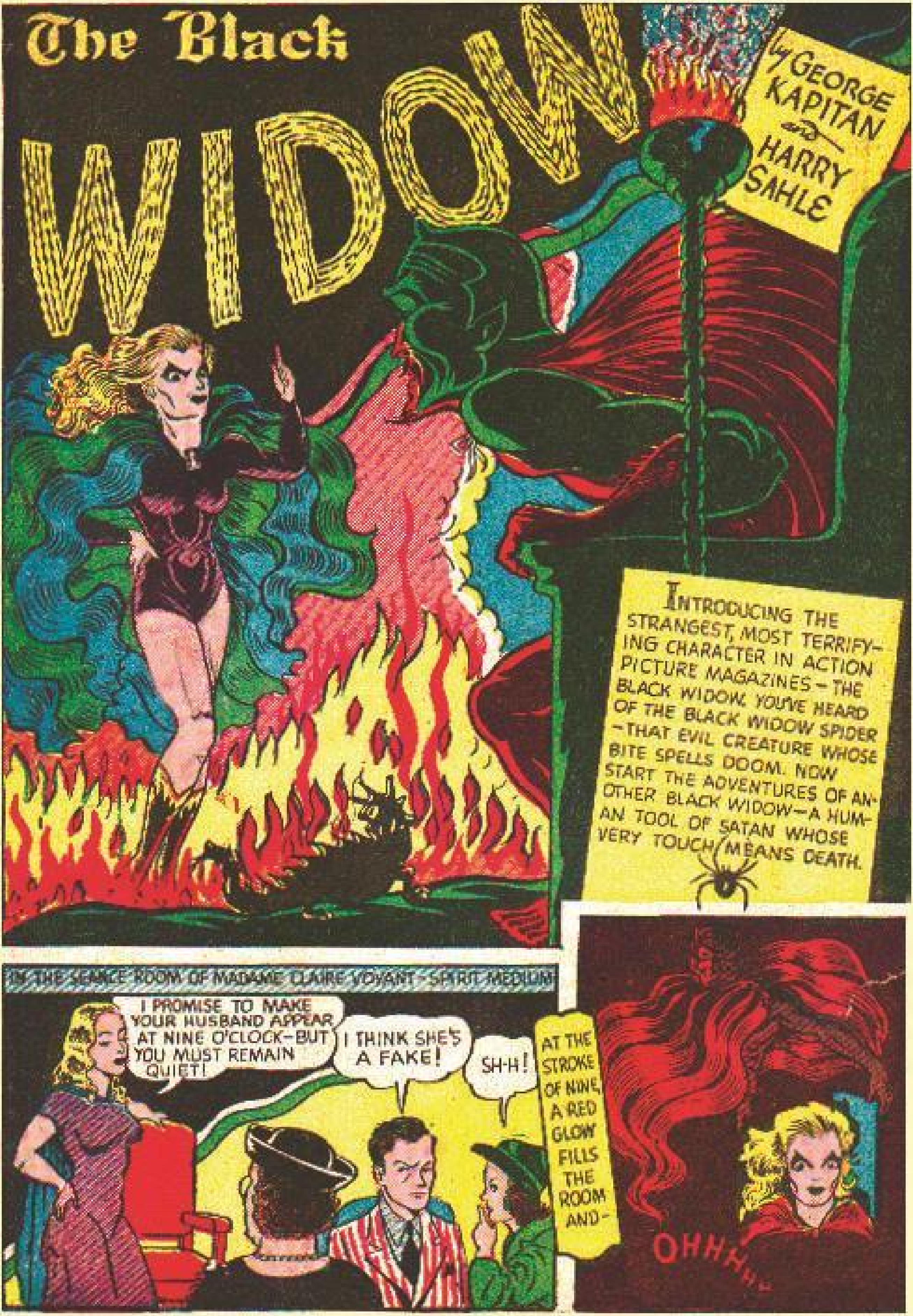

"LESS THAN AN OUNCE OF THIS LIQUID IS SUFFICIENT TO DESTROY WHOLE CITIES"
CRUNCH
OF COURSE THIS CHEMICAL HAS ITS GOOD USES- FOR ONE_IT COULD CAUSE THAT MIRACLE OF TRANS-MUTATION OF METALS- OR HELP IN THE CURE OF CANCER
IN THE HANDS OF THE DICTATOR OF TEUTONIA IT CAN BE ONLY A POWER FOR EVIL -
OF COURSE WE'LL GO_AND WE'LL LEAVE AT ONCE!
GETTING INTO THEIR SPEED PLANE THE WILLIAMS BOYS AND FLEXO QUICKLY TAKE OFF FOR TEUTONIA
WITH THIS TAILWIND WE SHOULD BE THERE WITHIN TEN HOURS
THAT NIGHT_ FLYING OVER TEUTONIA THEY ARE DISCOVERED BY ARMY OFFICIALS
HAVE THIS WIRELESS SENT TO THAT PLANE - IMMEDIATELY!
YES SIR
INSIDE THE PLANE - JOSHUA RECEIVES THE MESSAGE —
THEY WANT US TO TURN BACK IMMEDIATELY
BUT WE CAN'T_ WE MUST GO ON!
WHEN THE PLANE REFUSES TO TURN ABOUT THE ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS OPEN FIRE
WE'VE BEEN HIT! WE'RE FALLING!

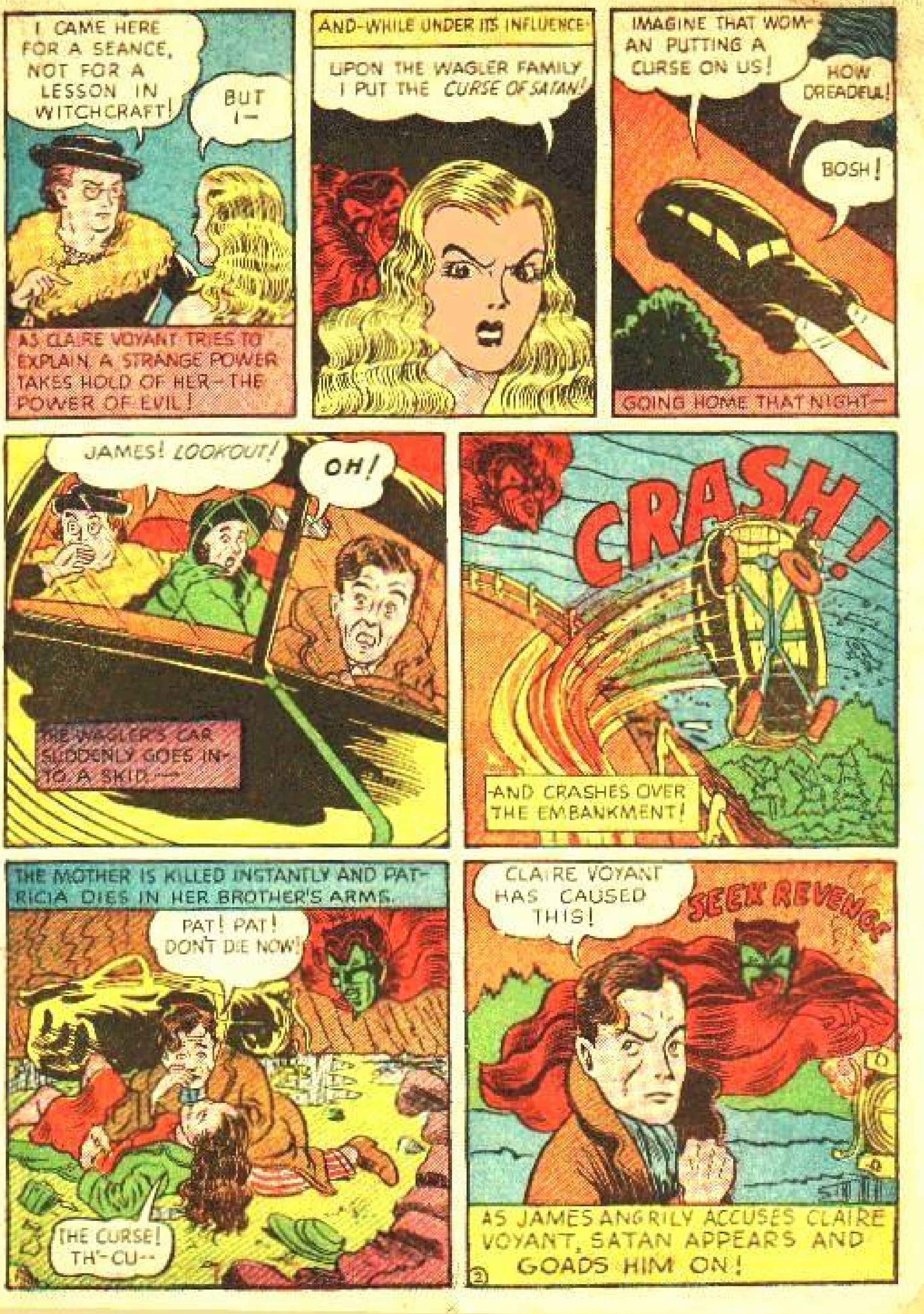

WITH THE PLANE OUT OF CONTROL - FLEXO GRABS THE WILLIAMS BOYS SAFELY IN HIS ARMS AND FLIES DOWN TO —
THE MIDDLE OF A CLEARING IN THE WOODS JUST OUTSIDE THE CAPITOL CITY
LATER - TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE DARK THEY FLY TO THE WINDOW LEDGE OF THE DICTATOR'S OFFICE
WHY - THE WINDOW IS BARRED!
FLEXO WILL SOON FIX THAT!
WITH HIS AMAZING STRENGTH, *FLEXO* BENDS THE BARS PERMITTING ENTRANCE
FLEXO - YOU WAIT BELOW WHILE WE LOOK FOR THE FORMULA
JOSHUA AND JOEL SUCCEED IN OPENING THE SAFE
I THINK I'VE GOT IT NOW!
QUICK! I HEAR FOOTSTEPS -
JUST THEN THEY ARE SURPRISED BY A NUMBER OF GUARDS —
A FALSE MOVE AND YOU'RE DEAD MEN —
3
THE WILLIAMS BOYS ARE LOCKED IN A PRISON CELL —
NO USE CALLING FLEXO 'TIL WE NEED HIM

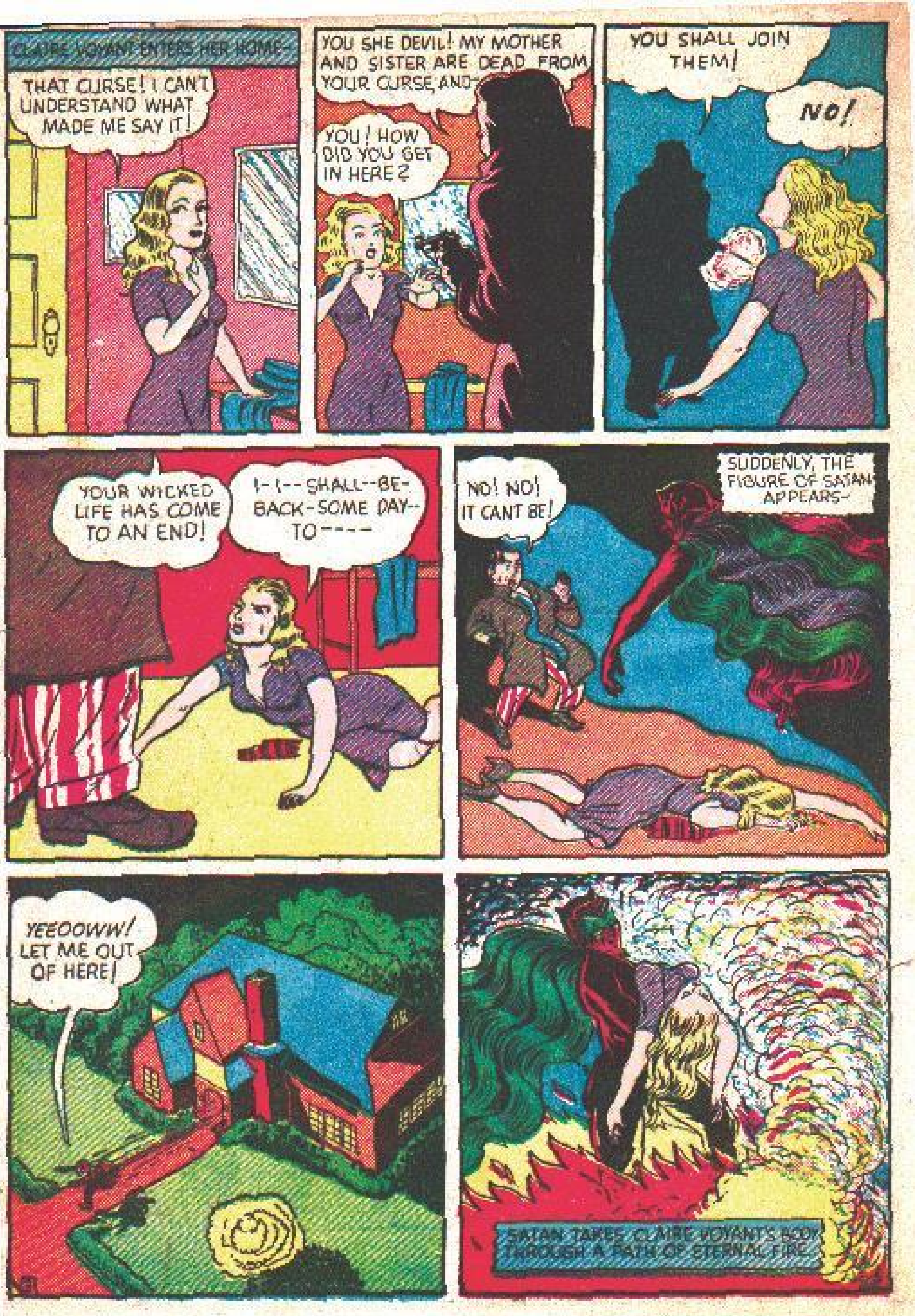

THE WILLIAMS BOYS ARE BROUGHT BEFORE THE DICTATOR OF TEUTONIA —
YOU ARE ACCUSED OF BEING SPIES — WHAT HAVE YOU TO SAY FOR YOURSELVES ?
WE ARE NOT SPIES — WE WERE SENT HERE TO FIND A CERTAIN VALUABLE FORMULA FOR A POWERFUL EXPLOSIVE. THAT WAS STOLEN FROM PROF. WINSTON OF OUR COUNTRY
I AM WELL AWARE OF THE POTENCY OF THIS FORMULA — IT IS NOW IN MY POSSESSION — AND WILL MAKE **ME** THE CONQUEROR OF THE WORLD — FOR YOUR INTERFERENCE YOU SHALL BE SHOT **IMMEDIATELY**!
LED BY THE DICTATOR'S SECRETARY — THE WILLIAMS BOYS ARE PLACED BEFORE A FIRING SQUAD —
I'M GETTING IN TOUCH WITH FLEXO BY REMOTE CONTROL
READY! AIM! — —
THERE HE IS! I HOPE HE'S NOT TOO LATE!
JUST BEFORE THE COMMAND TO **FIRE** - FLEXO ARRIVES AND RAISES HAVOC WITH THE FIRING SQUAD

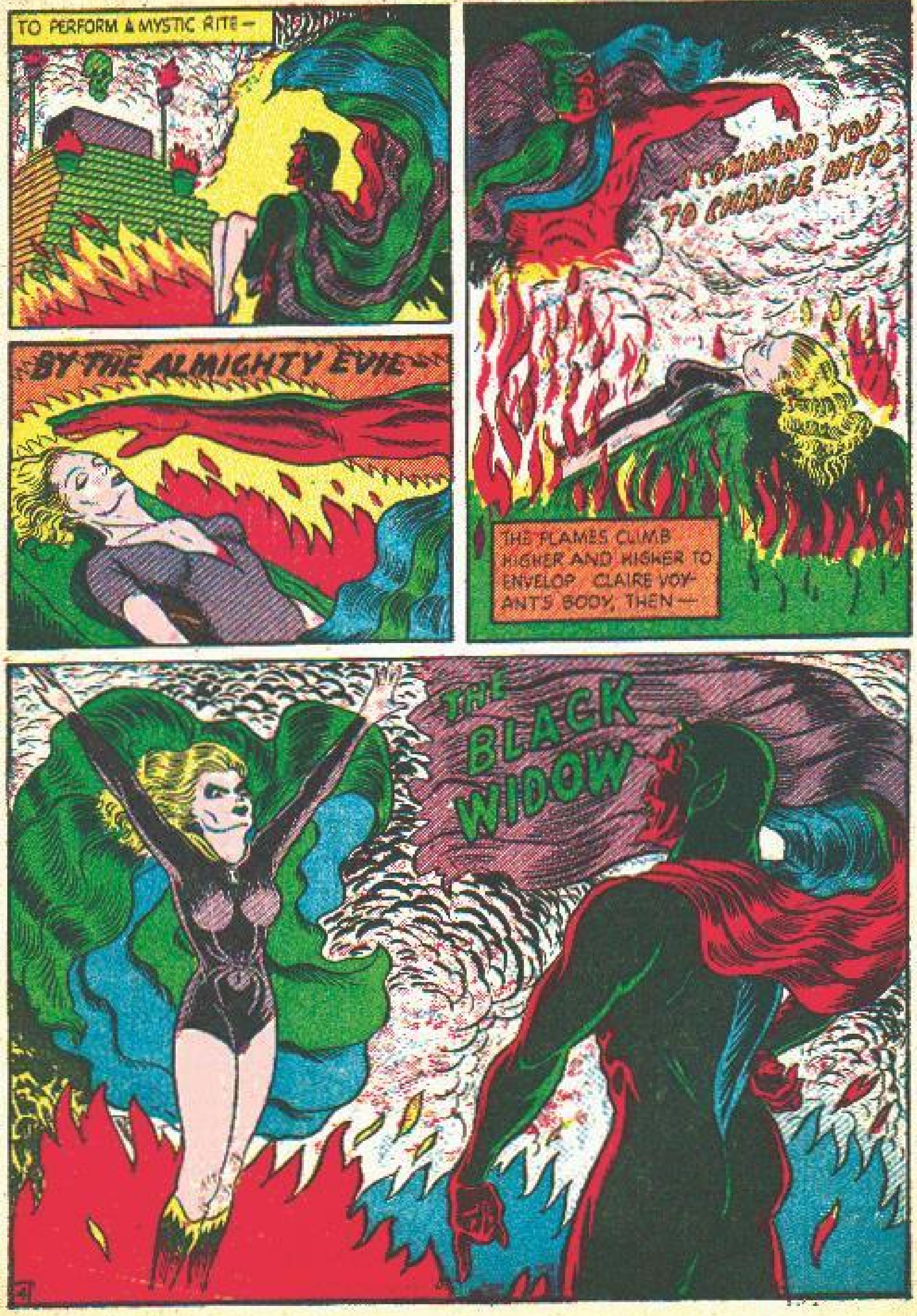

WHILE FLEXO IS FIGHTING THE FIRING SQUAD, JOEL AND JOSHUA HAVE TAKEN HOLD OF THE DICTATOR'S SECRETARY -
IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIFE - TELL US WHERE THE FORMULA IS!
I'LL TELL - I'LL TELL - THE DICTATOR AND A CONVOY ARE TAKING IT TO THE GOVERNMENT MUNITIONS FACTORY AT LEITSBORG
COME ON FLEXO! WE'RE LEAVING -
FLEXO, WITH THE BOYS STRAPPED TO HIM, TAKES OFF
WE HEAD WEST BY SOUTH - THEY CAN'T HAVE GONE FAR
THERE THEY ARE!
WE'LL LAND AHEAD OF THEM
WE'LL GET OFF HERE - FLEXO WILL DO THE REST -
CAN HE STAND THE SHOCK?
WHY NOT?
LANDING AHEAD OF THE CONVOY, FLEXO IS DIRECTED TO BLOCK THE ROAD

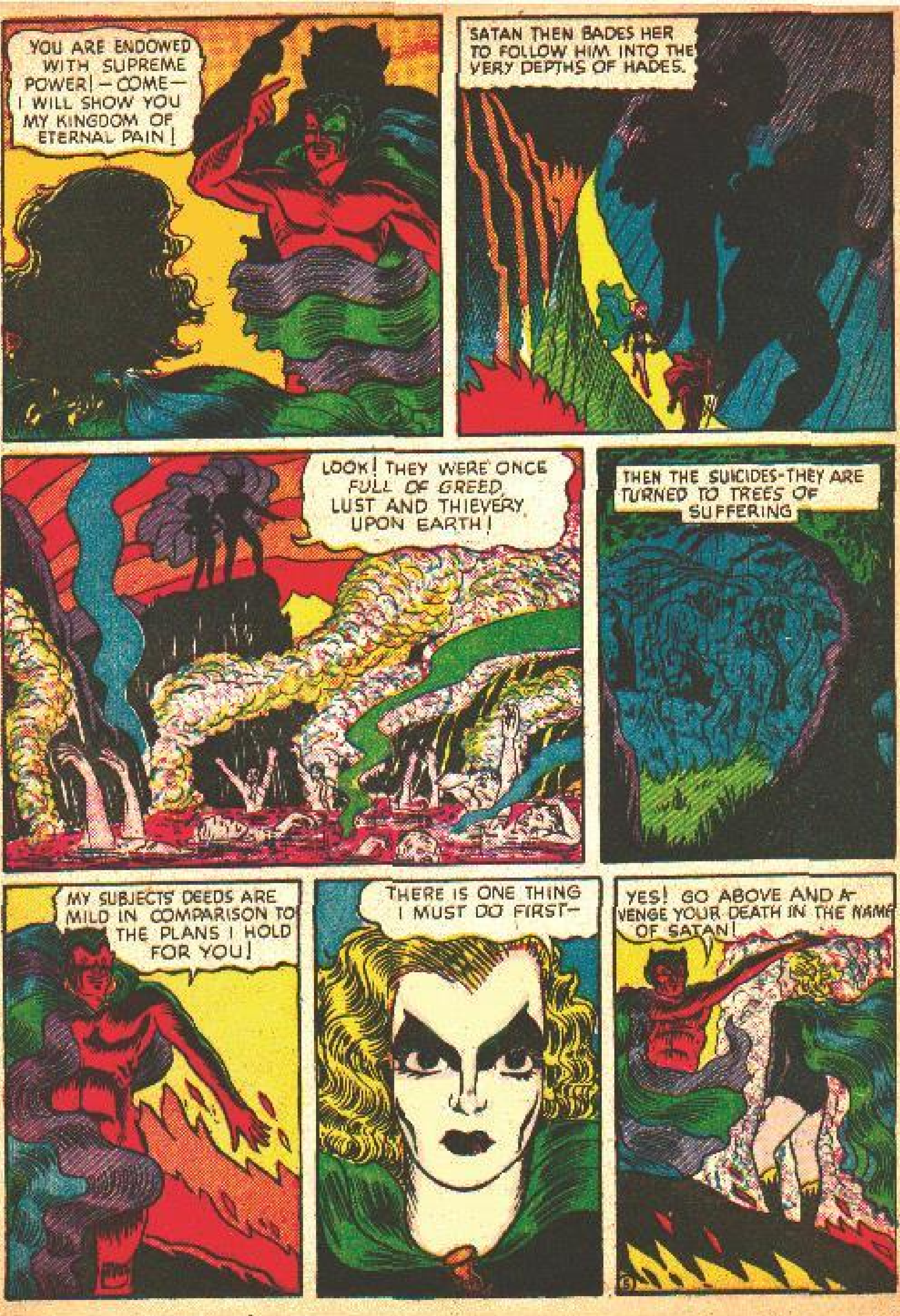

THE ARMORED CAR ROARS DOWN ON FLEXO AND -
RUN HIM DOWN! THIS CAR'S TOO HEAVY FOR HIM TO STOP!
CRASHES INTO THE RUBBER MAN, STRETCHING HIM -
THAT'S GOT 'IM
SMACK
BUT FLEXO HOLDS ON. AND SUDDENLY SNAPS BACK - HURLING THE ARMORED CAR THRU THE AIR -
HELP
WHAT TH'
RUSHING TO THE WRECKED CAR, JOSHUA BRINGS OUT THE BRIEF-CASE CONTAINING THE FORMULA
I'VE GOT IT!
THANKS TO FLEXO - CIVILIZATION IS SAVED!
AND ANOTHER DICTATOR DONE AWAY WITH!
ANOTHER FLEXO STORY IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF MYSTIC COMICS

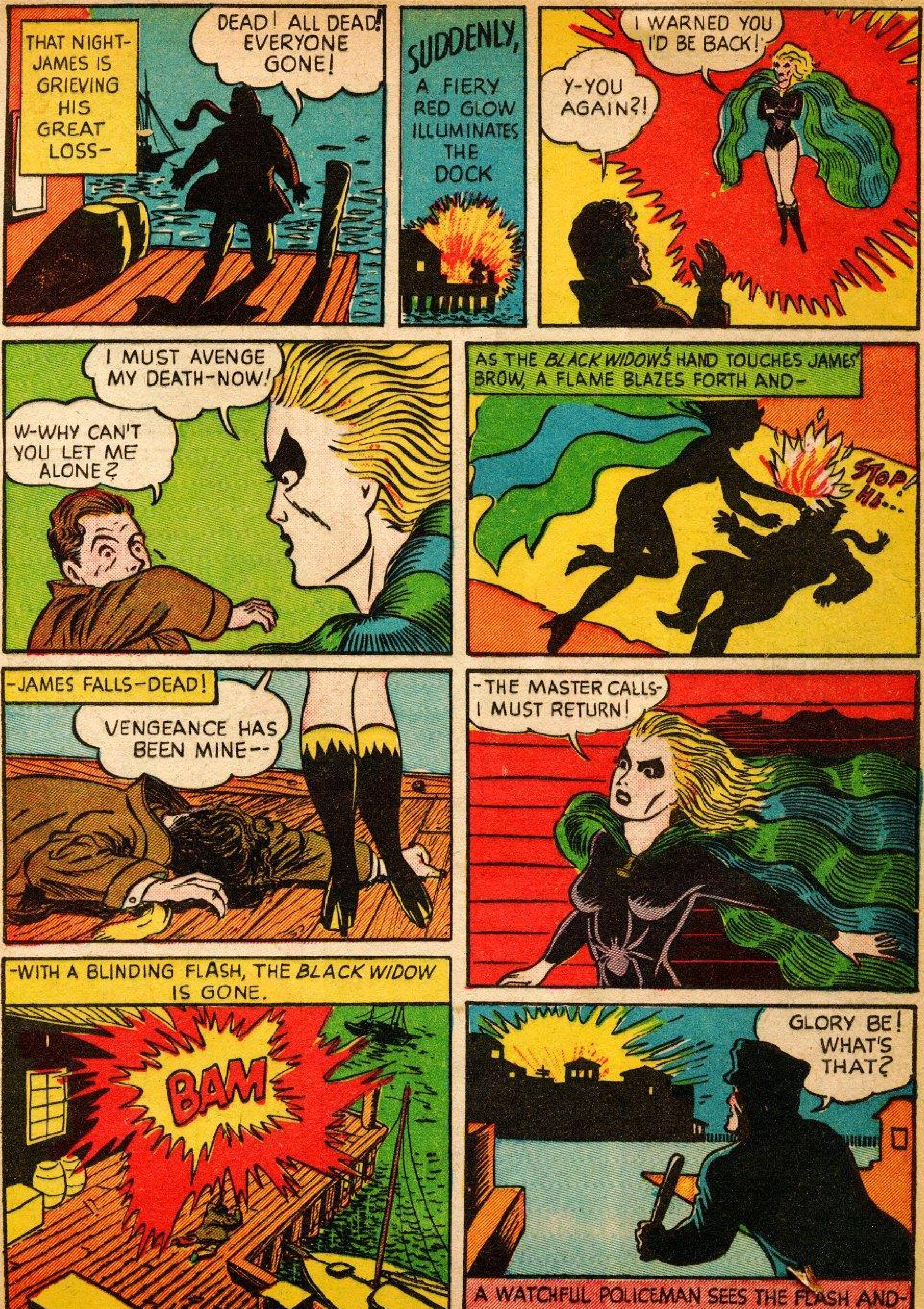

The Black WIDOW
by GEORGE KAPITAN & HARRY SAHLE
INTRODUCING THE STRANGEST, MOST TERRIFYING CHARACTER IN ACTION PICTURE MAGAZINES—THE BLACK WIDOW. YOU'VE HEARD OF THE BLACK WIDOW SPIDER—THAT EVIL CREATURE WHOSE BITE SPELLS DOOM. NOW START THE ADVENTURES OF ANOTHER BLACK WIDOW—A HUMAN TOOL OF SATAN WHOSE VERY TOUCH MEANS DEATH.
IN THE SEANCE ROOM OF MADAME CLAIRE VOYANT—SPIRIT MEDIUM
I PROMISE TO MAKE YOUR HUSBAND APPEAR AT NINE O'CLOCK—BUT YOU MUST REMAIN QUIET!
I THINK SHE'S A FAKE!
SH-H!
AT THE STROKE OF NINE, A RED GLOW FILLS THE ROOM AND—
OHHHH…

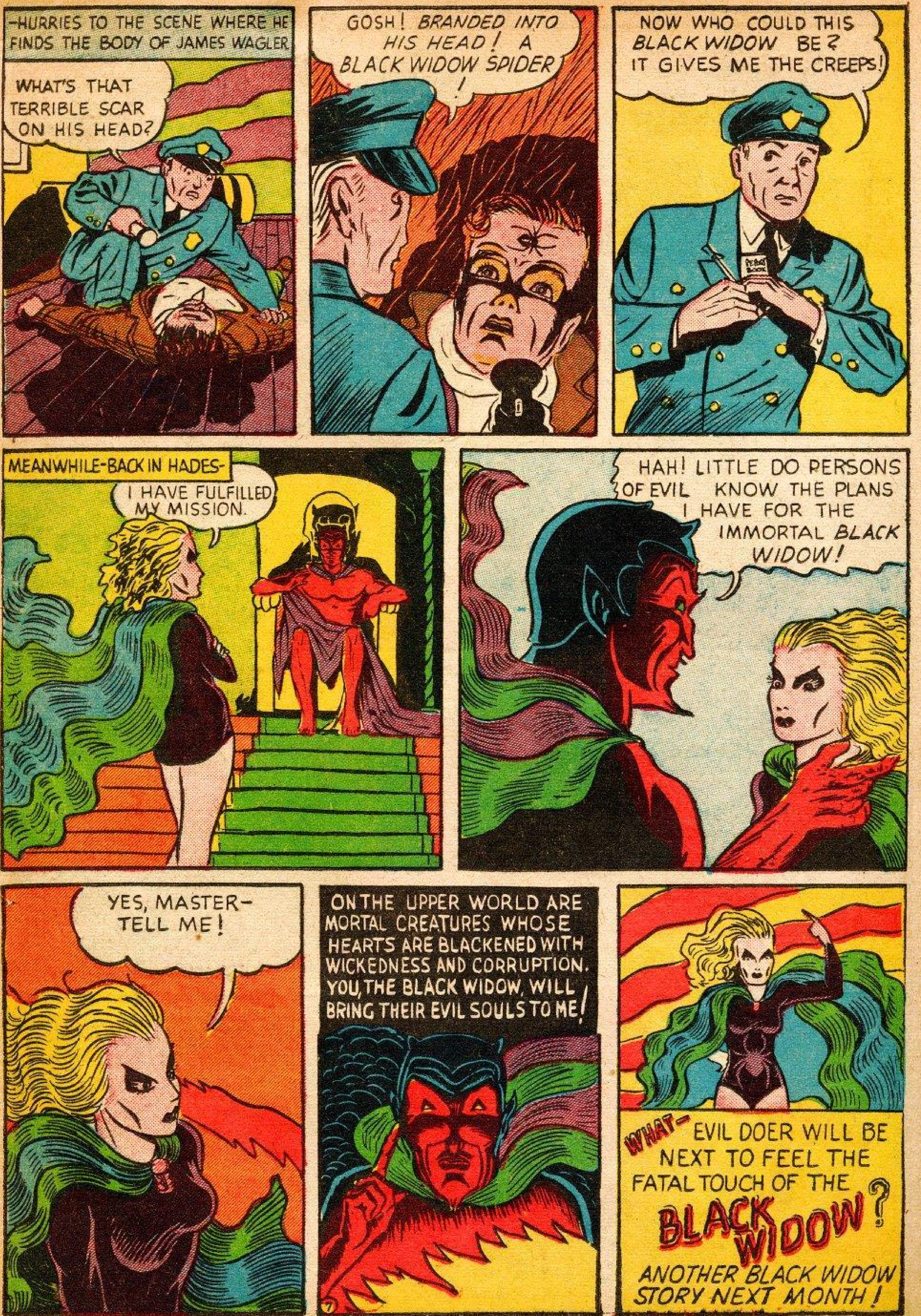

I CAME HERE FOR A SEANCE, NOT FOR A LESSON IN WITCHCRAFT!
BUT I—
AS CLAIRE VOYANT TRIES TO EXPLAIN A STRANGE POWER TAKES HOLD OF HER—THE POWER OF EVIL!
AND-WHILE UNDER ITS INFLUENCE-
UPON THE WAGLER FAMILY I PUT THE *CURSE OF SATAN!*
IMAGINE THAT WOMAN PUTTING A CURSE ON US!
HOW DREADFUL!
BOSH!
GOING HOME THAT NIGHT—
JAMES! *LOOKOUT!*
OH!
THE WAGLER'S CAR SUDDENLY GOES INTO A SKID.—
CRASH!
-AND CRASHES OVER THE EMBANKMENT!
THE MOTHER IS KILLED INSTANTLY AND PATRICIA DIES IN HER BROTHER'S ARMS.
PAT! PAT! DON'T DIE NOW!
THE CURSE! TH'-CU--
CLAIRE VOYANT HAS CAUSED THIS!
SEEK REVENGE
AS JAMES ANGRILY ACCUSES CLAIRE VOYANT, SATAN APPEARS AND GOADS HIM ON!

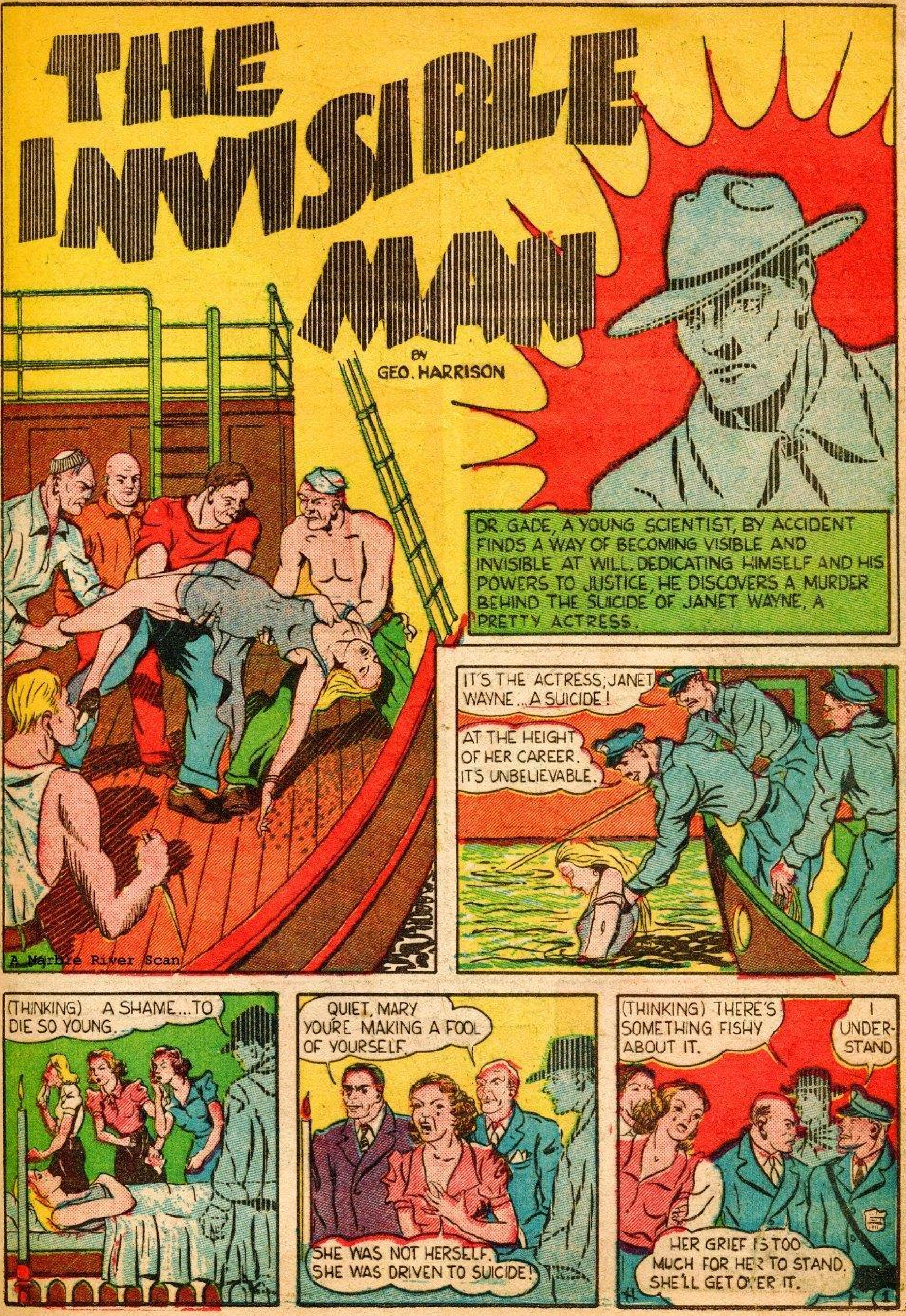

CLAIRE VOYANT ENTERS HER HOME-
THAT CURSE! I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT MADE ME SAY IT!
YOU SHE DEVIL! MY MOTHER AND SISTER ARE DEAD FROM YOUR CURSE, AND-
YOU! HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE?
YOU SHALL JOIN THEM!
NO!
YOUR WICKED LIFE HAS COME TO AN END!
I-I--SHALL--BE-BACK-SOME DAY--TO----
NO! NO! IT CANT BE!
SUDDENLY, THE FIGURE OF SATAN APPEARS-
YEEOOWW! LET ME OUT OF HERE!
SATAN TAKES CLAIRE VOYANT'S BODY THROUGH A PATH OF ETERNAL FIRE


TO PERFORM A MYSTIC RITE—
I COMMAND YOU TO CHANGE INTO—
BY THE ALMIGHTY EVIL—
THE FLAMES CLIMB HIGHER AND HIGHER TO ENVELOP CLAIRE VOYANT'S BODY, THEN—
THE BLACK WIDOW
4

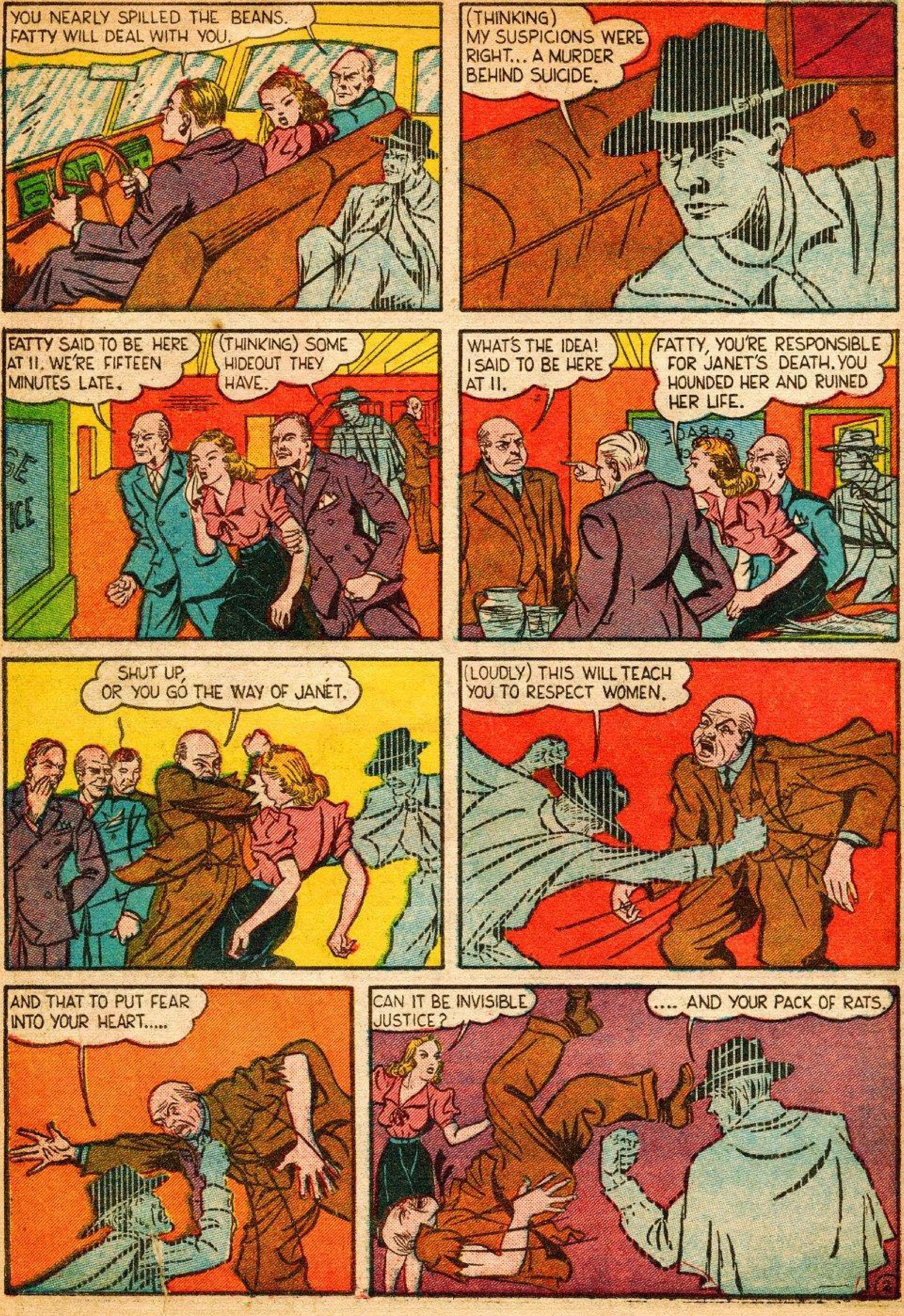

YOU ARE ENDOWED WITH SUPREME POWER! —COME— I WILL SHOW YOU MY KINGDOM OF ETERNAL PAIN!
SATAN THEN BADES HER TO FOLLOW HIM INTO THE VERY DEPTHS OF HADES.
LOOK! THEY WERE ONCE *FULL OF GREED*, LUST AND THIEVERY UPON EARTH!
THEN THE SUICIDES-THEY ARE *TURNED TO TREES OF* SUFFERING
MY SUBJECTS' DEEDS ARE MILD IN COMPARISON TO THE PLANS I HOLD FOR YOU!
THERE IS ONE THING I MUST DO FIRST—
YES! GO ABOVE AND AVENGE YOUR DEATH IN THE NAME OF SATAN!
5

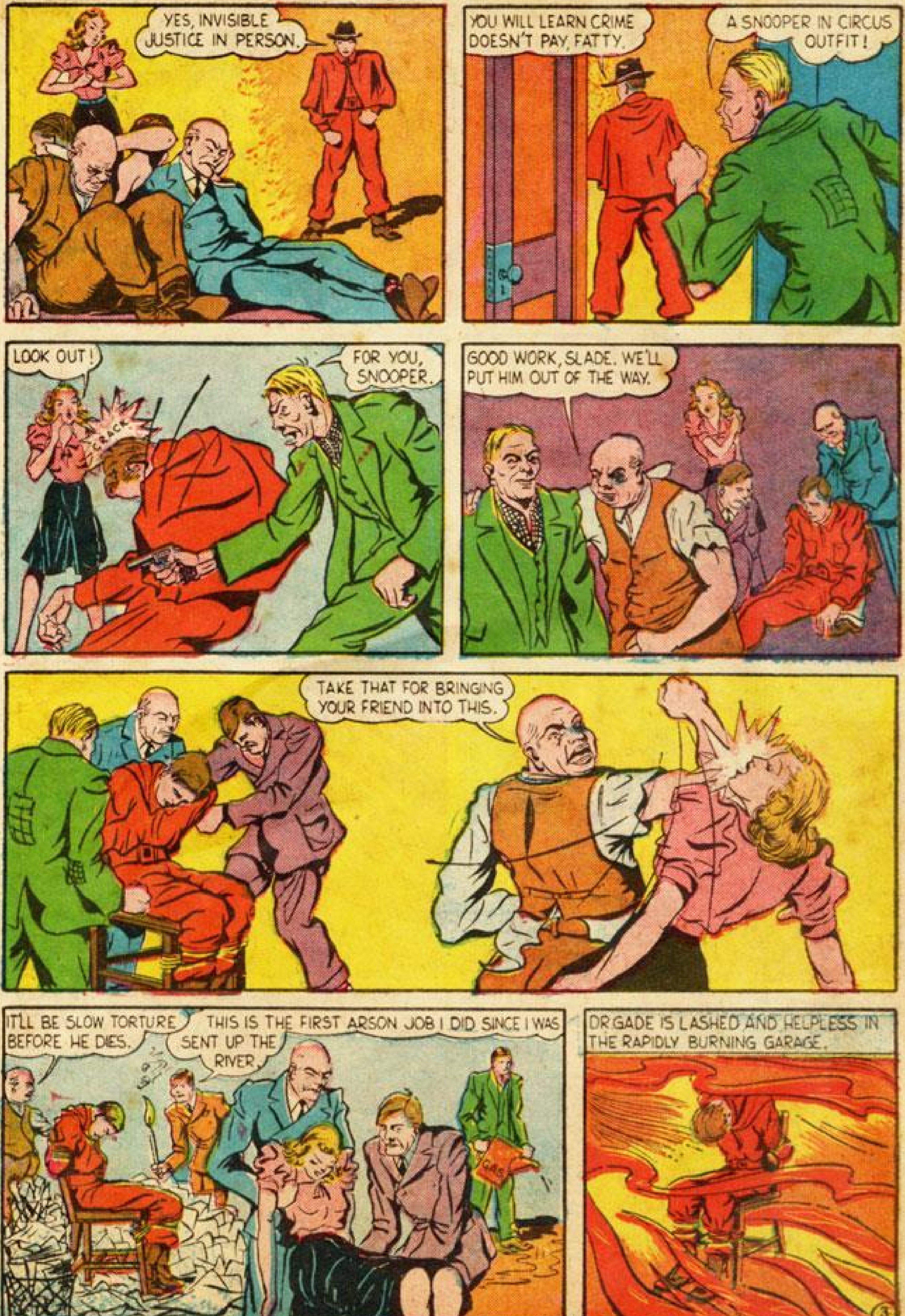

THAT NIGHT- JAMES IS GRIEVING HIS GREAT LOSS-
DEAD! ALL DEAD! EVERYONE GONE!
SUDDENLY, A FIERY RED GLOW ILLUMINATES THE DOCK
I WARNED YOU I'D BE BACK!
Y-YOU AGAIN?!
I MUST AVENGE MY DEATH-NOW!
W-WHY CAN'T YOU LET ME ALONE?
AS THE BLACK WIDOW'S HAND TOUCHES JAMES' BROW, A FLAME BLAZES FORTH AND-
STOP! HE...
-JAMES FALLS-DEAD!
VENGEANCE HAS BEEN MINE--
-THE MASTER CALLS- I MUST RETURN!
-WITH A BLINDING FLASH, THE BLACK WIDOW IS GONE.
BAM
GLORY BE! WHAT'S THAT?
A WATCHFUL POLICEMAN SEES THE FLASH AND-

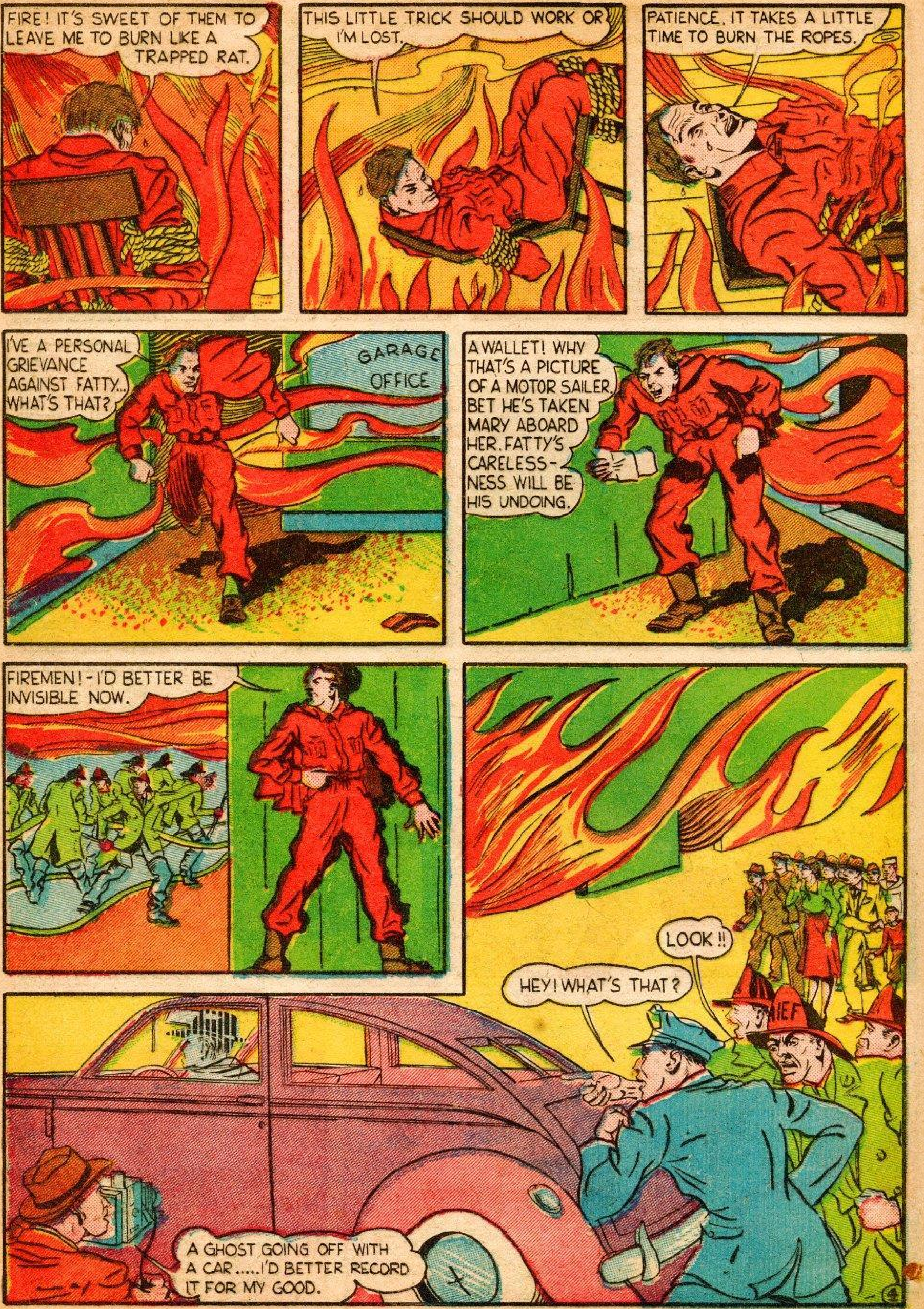

-HURRIES TO THE SCENE WHERE HE FINDS THE BODY OF JAMES WAGLER
WHAT'S THAT TERRIBLE SCAR ON HIS HEAD?
GOSH! *BRANDED INTO HIS HEAD! A BLACK WIDOW SPIDER!*
NOW WHO COULD THIS *BLACK WIDOW* BE? IT GIVES ME THE CREEPS!
MEANWHILE-BACK IN HADES-
I HAVE FULFILLED MY MISSION.
HAH! LITTLE DO PERSONS OF EVIL KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR THE IMMORTAL *BLACK WIDOW!*
YES, MASTER- TELL ME!
ON THE UPPER WORLD ARE MORTAL CREATURES WHOSE HEARTS ARE BLACKENED WITH WICKEDNESS AND CORRUPTION. YOU, THE BLACK WIDOW, WILL BRING THEIR EVIL SOULS TO ME!
WHAT- EVIL DOER WILL BE NEXT TO FEEL THE FATAL TOUCH OF THE BLACK WIDOW?
ANOTHER BLACK WIDOW STORY NEXT MONTH!

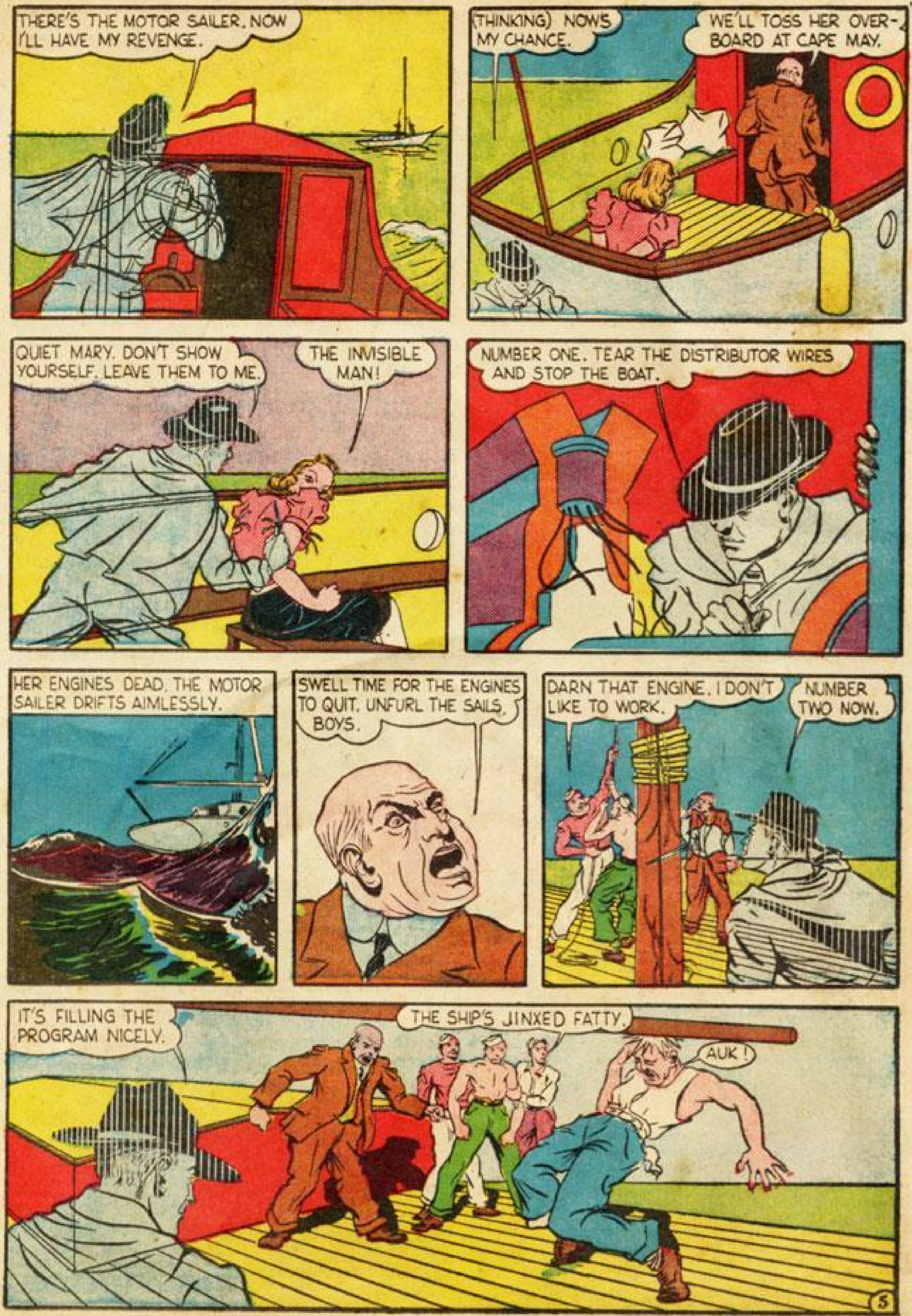

THE INVISIBLE MAN
BY GEO. HARRISON
DR. GADE, A YOUNG SCIENTIST, BY ACCIDENT FINDS A WAY OF BECOMING VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE AT WILL. DEDICATING HIMSELF AND HIS POWERS TO JUSTICE, HE DISCOVERS A MURDER BEHIND THE SUICIDE OF JANET WAYNE, A PRETTY ACTRESS.
IT'S THE ACTRESS; JANET WAYNE...A SUICIDE!
AT THE HEIGHT OF HER CAREER. IT'S UNBELIEVABLE.
(THINKING) A SHAME...TO DIE SO YOUNG.
QUIET, MARY YOU'RE MAKING A FOOL OF YOURSELF.
SHE WAS NOT HERSELF. SHE WAS DRIVEN TO SUICIDE!
(THINKING) THERE'S SOMETHING FISHY ABOUT IT.
I UNDERSTAND
HER GRIEF IS TOO MUCH FOR HER TO STAND. SHE'LL GET OVER IT.

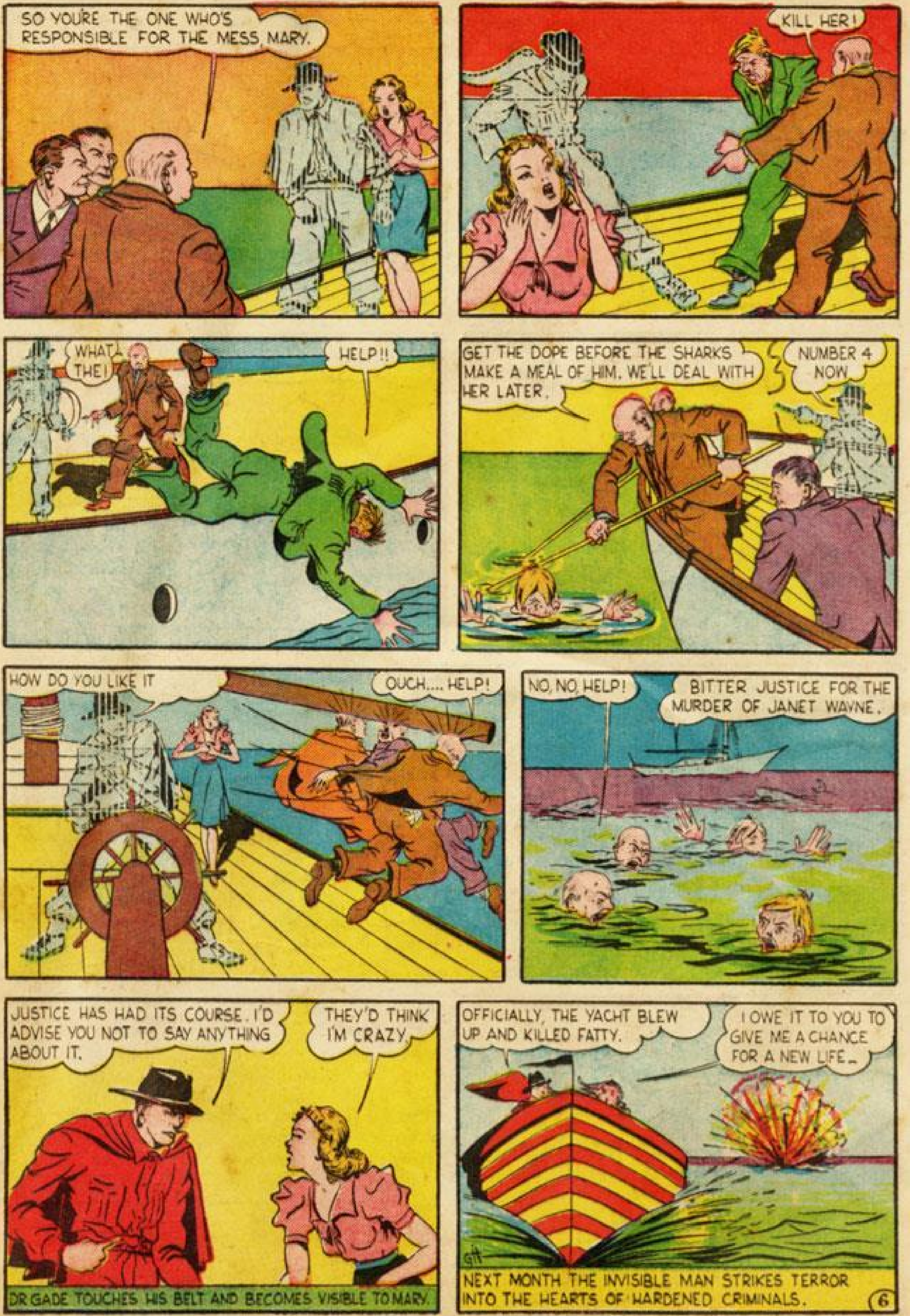
A Marble River Scan


YOU NEARLY SPILLED THE BEANS. FATTY WILL DEAL WITH YOU.
(THINKING) MY SUSPICIONS WERE RIGHT... A MURDER BEHIND SUICIDE.
FATTY SAID TO BE HERE AT 11. WE'RE FIFTEEN MINUTES LATE.
(THINKING) SOME HIDEOUT THEY HAVE.
WHAT'S THE IDEA! I SAID TO BE HERE AT 11.
FATTY, YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR JANET'S DEATH. YOU HOUNDED HER AND RUINED HER LIFE.
SHUT UP, OR YOU GO THE WAY OF JANET.
(LOUDLY) THIS WILL TEACH YOU TO RESPECT WOMEN.
AND THAT TO PUT FEAR INTO YOUR HEART.....
CAN IT BE INVISIBLE JUSTICE?
.... AND YOUR PACK OF RATS.

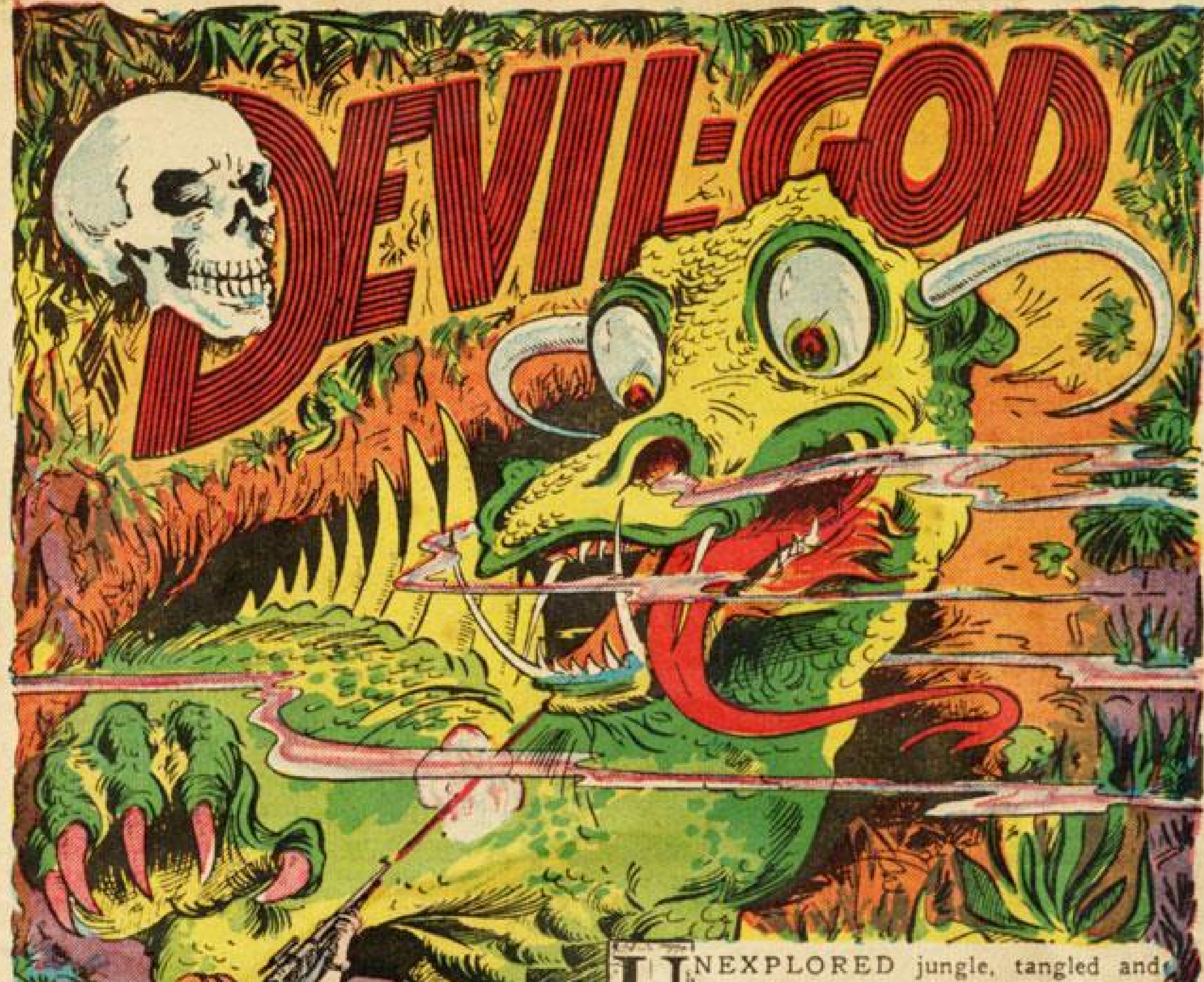

YES, INVISIBLE JUSTICE IN PERSON.
YOU WILL LEARN CRIME DOESN'T PAY, FATTY.
A SNOOPER IN CIRCUS OUTFIT!
LOOK OUT!
CRACK
FOR YOU, SNOOPER.
GOOD WORK, SLADE. WE'LL PUT HIM OUT OF THE WAY.
TAKE THAT FOR BRINGING YOUR FRIEND INTO THIS.
IT'LL BE SLOW TORTURE BEFORE HE DIES.
THIS IS THE FIRST ARSON JOB I DID SINCE I WAS SENT UP THE RIVER.
GAS
DR GADE IS LASHED AND HELPLESS IN THE RAPIDLY BURNING GARAGE.


FIRE! IT'S SWEET OF THEM TO LEAVE ME TO BURN LIKE A TRAPPED RAT.
THIS LITTLE TRICK SHOULD WORK OR I'M LOST.
PATIENCE, IT TAKES A LITTLE TIME TO BURN THE ROPES.
I'VE A PERSONAL GRIEVANCE AGAINST FATTY... WHAT'S THAT?
GARAGE OFFICE
A WALLET! WHY THAT'S A PICTURE OF A MOTOR SAILER. BET HE'S TAKEN MARY ABOARD HER. FATTY'S CARELESSNESS WILL BE HIS UNDOING.
FIREMEN! - I'D BETTER BE INVISIBLE NOW.
LOOK!!
HEY! WHAT'S THAT?
CHIEF
A GHOST GOING OFF WITH A CAR.....I'D BETTER RECORD IT FOR MY GOOD.
4


THERE'S THE MOTOR SAILER. NOW I'LL HAVE MY REVENGE.
(THINKING) NOW'S MY CHANCE.
WE'LL TOSS HER OVERBOARD AT CAPE MAY.
QUIET MARY. DON'T SHOW YOURSELF. LEAVE THEM TO ME.
THE INVISIBLE MAN!
NUMBER ONE. TEAR THE DISTRIBUTOR WIRES AND STOP THE BOAT.
HER ENGINES DEAD, THE MOTOR SAILER DRIFTS AIMLESSLY.
SWELL TIME FOR THE ENGINES TO QUIT. UNFURL THE SAILS, BOYS.
DARN THAT ENGINE. I DON'T LIKE TO WORK.
NUMBER TWO NOW.
IT'S FILLING THE PROGRAM NICELY.
THE SHIP'S JINXED FATTY.
AUK!


SO YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MESS, MARY.
KILL HER!
WHAT THE!
HELP!!
GET THE DOPE BEFORE THE SHARKS MAKE A MEAL OF HIM. WE'LL DEAL WITH HER LATER.
NUMBER 4 NOW.
HOW DO YOU LIKE IT
OUCH.... HELP!
NO, NO, HELP!
BITTER JUSTICE FOR THE MURDER OF JANET WAYNE.
JUSTICE HAS HAD ITS COURSE. I'D ADVISE YOU NOT TO SAY ANYTHING ABOUT IT.
THEY'D THINK I'M CRAZY.
DR GADE TOUCHES HIS BELT AND BECOMES VISIBLE TO MARY.
OFFICIALLY, THE YACHT BLEW UP AND KILLED FATTY.
I OWE IT TO YOU TO GIVE ME A CHANCE FOR A NEW LIFE.
NEXT MONTH THE INVISIBLE MAN STRIKES TERROR INTO THE HEARTS OF HARDENED CRIMINALS.

DEVIL-GOD



by Andrew McWhiney

UNEXPLORED jungle, tangled and steaming, stretched for miles in the heart of deepest Africa. Two white men paddled up a sullen, torpid, yellow river bisecting the choking green wilderness. They were young Dr. Karl Strang, famous naturalist, and Tom Barron, big game hunter and explorer.

Beaching on a small island to eat, the men resumed an old conversation.

"Now that we've reached the middle of this infernal wilderness, Karl," said Tom, "I wish you'd tell me what you're looking for. I've seen some bad country, but surely this is the hell-hole of Creation."

Karl chuckled. "I can't tell you yet. I'm following a rumor — looking, in fact, for the natives' devil-god!"

"Devil-god?"

"Yes, I heard them, back at the coast, talking about some weird beast deep in the interior. Only one or two men have dared to come part way. Some of their ancestors must have got this

Suddenly a mammoth lizard-like head thrust itself into the cavern. Huge eyes blinked evilly from scaly pouches. Slowly the fearful beast came on. And—

far in, saw some frightful beast, or thought they did, and built up legends about it till he had entered their religion as the devil, or spirit of evil."

"Well, I can handle anything with this big-bore express rifle," said Tom. He patted his heavy, gleaming Mannlicher.

"Good!" replied Karl. "Let's push on!"

JUNGLE sounds came to them as they moved up-river: chatter of myriad monkeys, hum of giant insects, weird hyena laughs, shrilling of baboons, and the snarls and grunts of lions stalking the banks beside them.

In the late afternoon they reached the river's source at a broad lake lying in a grassy upland. As they paddled to the shallow, muddy north shore bank, Tom Barron pointed and cried:

"Look at that!"

Three feet in diameter, the footprints of some colossal beast were sunk into the mud!

"Those aren't fossilized," said Tom in awe. "They're fairly fresh. Is this your devil-god?"

Karl scanned the lake shore sharply. "It may be," he said softly. "Too bad they disappear on hard ground. Let's camp and investigate further in the morning."

"Right. How about that cavern in the cliff?"

"Excellent!"

Some fifty feet up a rocky slope, the enormous cavern proved dry and empty, and the men bedded down for the night.

Just before daylight Karl shook Tom awake.

"Listen!"

The quiet was rent by a savage uproar —— the creatures of the jungle and lake were giving voice together. The din was terrible.

"What's that?" Karl whispered.

Tom seized the Mannlicher. In silence they waited. Ponderous, rhythmic thuds came from the lake shore. Nearer and nearer they came. The ground shook; loose, sliding rocks rattled.

"The devil-god!" Karl gasped.

SUDDENLY a mammoth, lizard-like head thrust into the cavern. Eyes like pieplates blinked evilly from scaly pouches; rough hide rasped on rock. A foot came in; the claws equalled elephant tusks in size.

"It's a dinosaur!" Tom yelled.

"Don't fire!" Karl shouted.

Icy with fear, they shrank deeper into the cavern. In the pale dawn light they saw the giant body squeeze through the cavern mouth, scales scraping, rank breath making the air seethe. Splitting, crunching sounds told of monster feet wrecking the camp gear as the beast came on.

The cavern tapered to a blind pocket; their backs were against solid rock. Then Karl looked up, and saw daylight!

"A shaft!" he breathed. "Thank heaven!"

Inch by inch they fought their way up the rough natural bore, feeling for hand- and footholds. Bruised, bleeding, exhausted, they finally dragged themselves out upon the ground and lay panting.

"I thought those things were extinct eons ago!" said Tom.

"And so science thought. But apparently they have had sanctuary here. Some accidental combination of circumstances has kept them from disappearing in the cycle of evolution till now. This is unquestionably the last survivor——the devil-god!"

"What do we do now?" Tom asked.

"I've got to have proof," said Karl grimly. I must have a piece of the hide — that will convince them!"

"And how," Tom inquired, "do you propose to get it?"

"Did you ever smoke out a bear?"

"Let's go!" cried Tom Barron.

Saplings served as levers to roll huge boulders against the cavern mouth. In the flaming sunrise they gathered vast piles of rank moss, soggy reeds, and thick, pulpy green stems of jungle plants. Set afire, these exuded thick, greasy clouds of acrid smoke. The smouldering pile was poked down the shaft, and the neck plugged with rock.

IN agony the colossal prisoner writhed in the chamber till the ground trembled. Suddenly there was a terrific crash! Boulders at the cave mouth scattered like pebbles—the monster had battered his way free!

"Look out!" screamed Karl.

A beast towering forty feet and measuring sixty feet from head to the tip of his armored, lashing tail, charged at them! Thirty tons of animated death, borne savagely on legs like giant trees! Stunned with horror,, the men seemed rooted, powerless to move.

Up went the Mannlicher. For an instant Tom saw in the sights an evil eye, 12 inches across, flickering red with bestial rage. The rifle crashed. The beast came on, then fell at their very feet with a shattering impact like the collapse of a building.

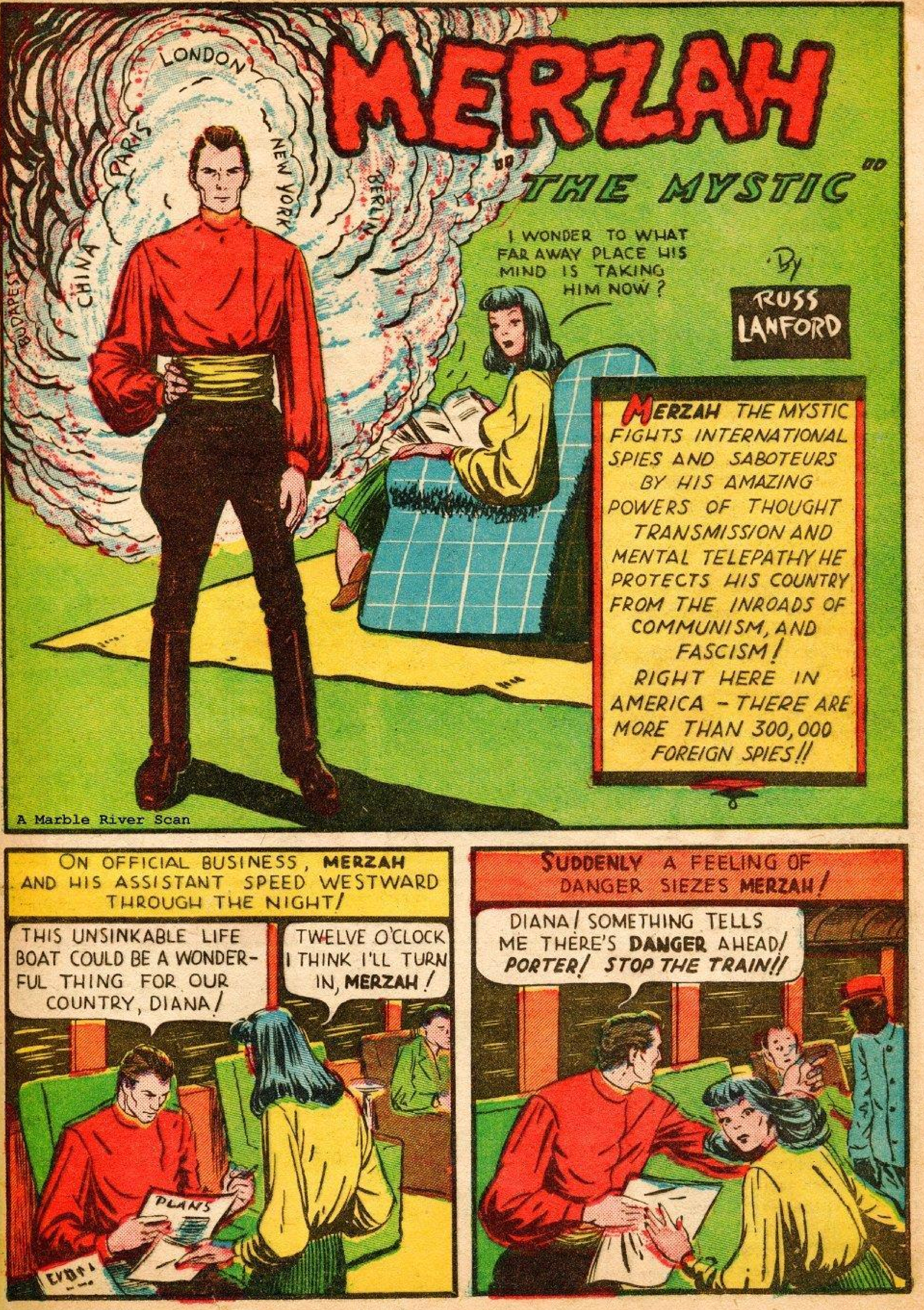
Silence. "What a shot!" Karl whispered.

One month later two ragged, emaciated white men reached a coastal native village, strode straight to the head man's hut, and at his feet dropped their burdens from aching backs. A three-foot square of scaly hide, eight inches thick. And a bone seven feet long and eighteen inches thick.

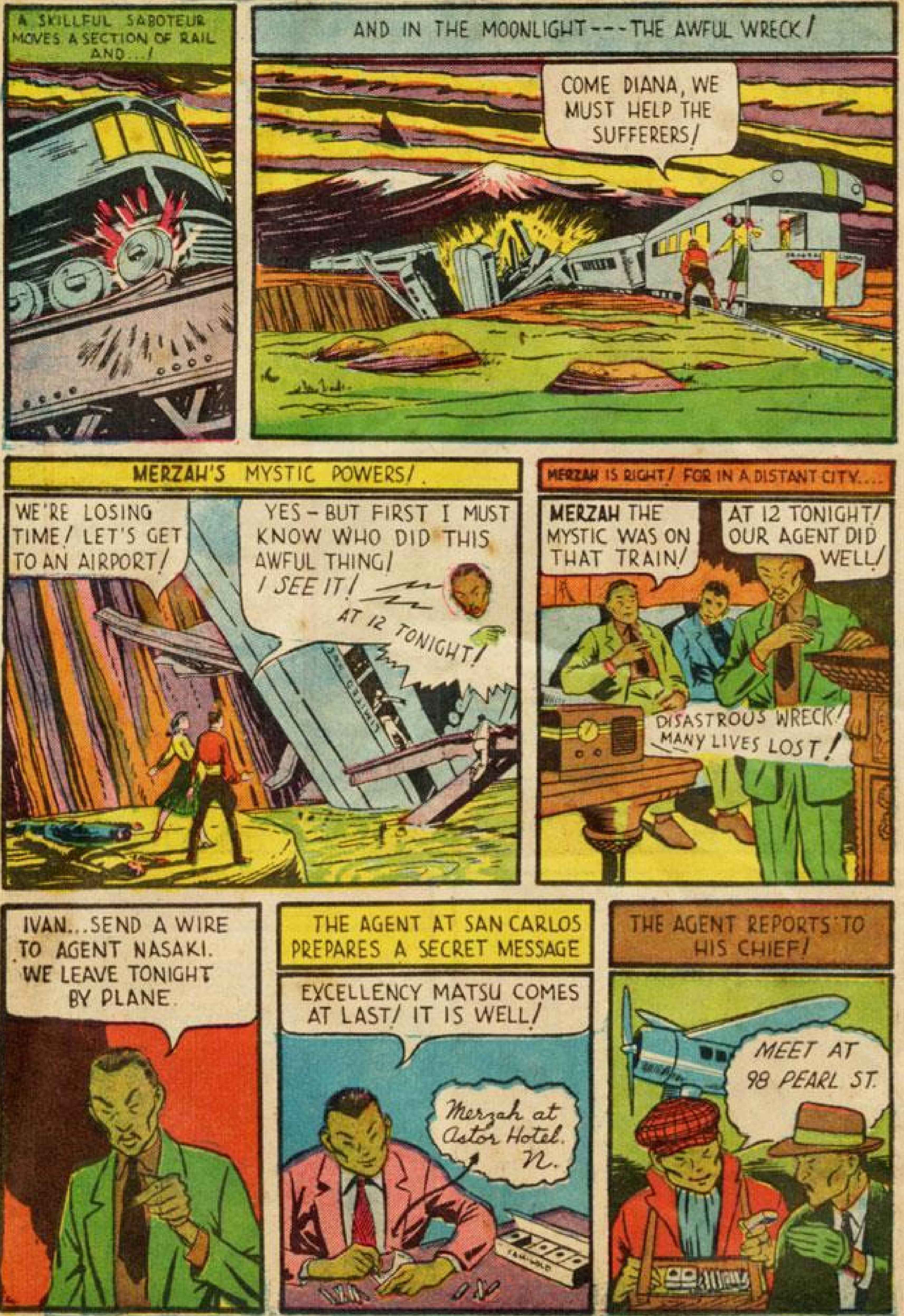
"Devil-god!" yelled the chieftan in his native tongue.

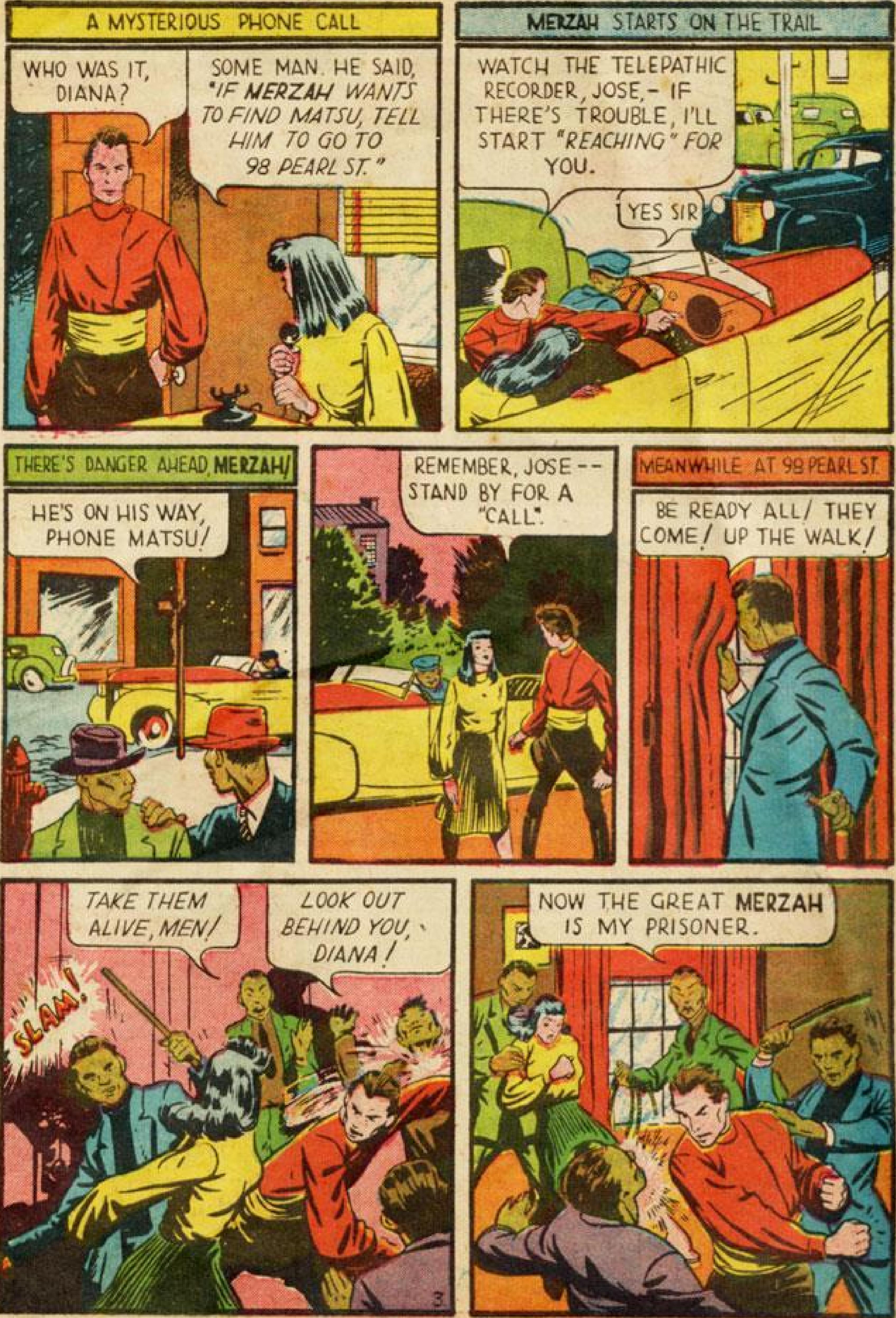
"Devil-god no more!" said the travellers. "White man smoke um out!"

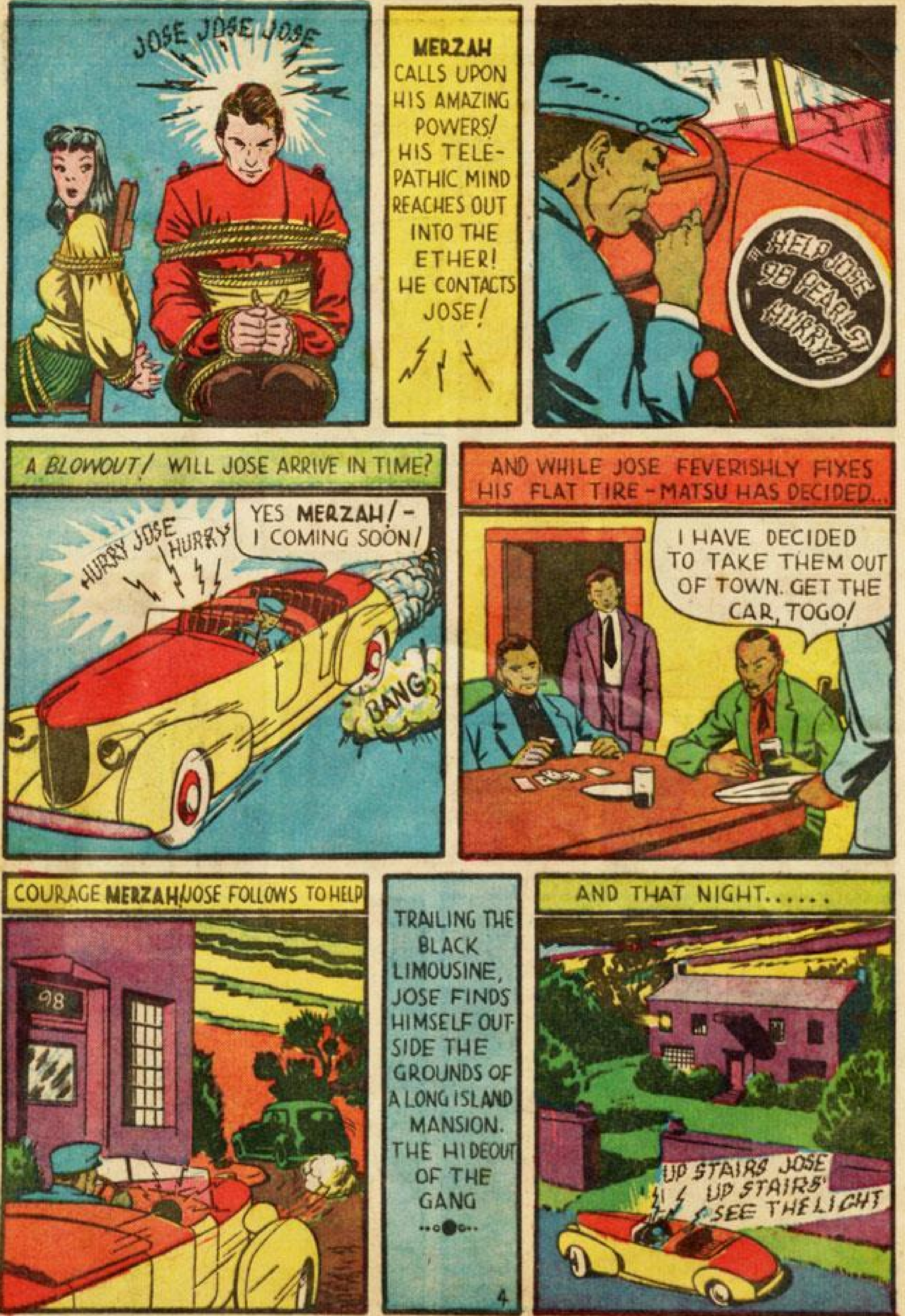
THE END

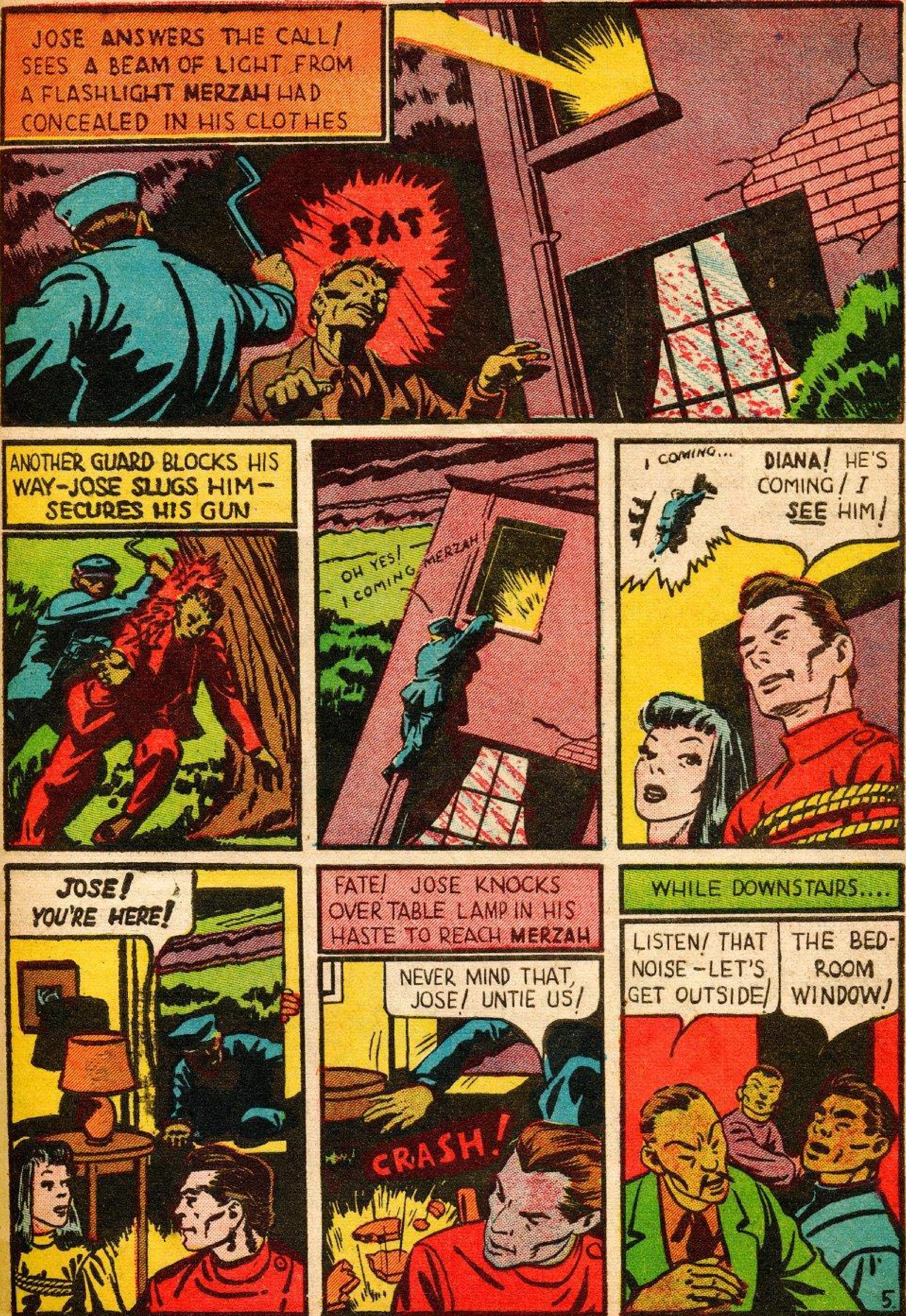

MERZAH
"THE MYSTIC"
By RUSS LANFORD
LONDON
PARIS
NEW YORK
BERLIN
CHINA
BUDAPEST
I WONDER TO WHAT FAR AWAY PLACE HIS MIND IS TAKING HIM NOW?
MERZAH THE MYSTIC FIGHTS INTERNATIONAL SPIES AND SABOTEURS BY HIS AMAZING POWERS OF THOUGHT TRANSMISSION AND MENTAL TELEPATHY HE PROTECTS HIS COUNTRY FROM THE INROADS OF COMMUNISM, AND FASCISM! RIGHT HERE IN AMERICA - THERE ARE MORE THAN 300,000 FOREIGN SPIES!!
ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS, MERZAH AND HIS ASSISTANT SPEED WESTWARD THROUGH THE NIGHT!
THIS UNSINKABLE LIFE BOAT COULD BE A WONDERFUL THING FOR OUR COUNTRY, DIANA!
TWELVE O'CLOCK I THINK I'LL TURN IN, MERZAH!
PLANS
SUDDENLY A FEELING OF DANGER SIEZES MERZAH!
DIANA! SOMETHING TELLS ME THERE'S DANGER AHEAD! PORTER! STOP THE TRAIN!!

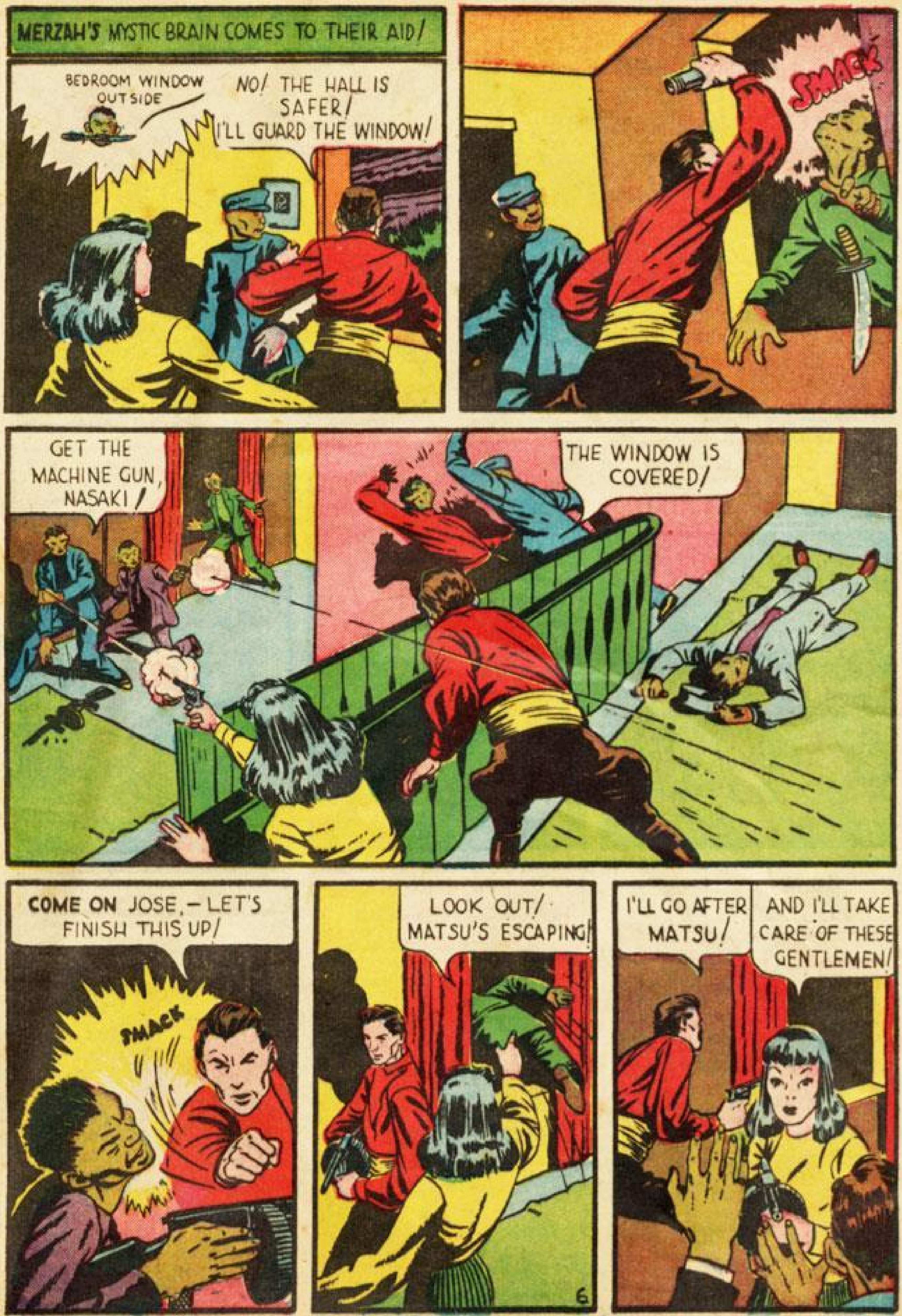
A Marble River Scan

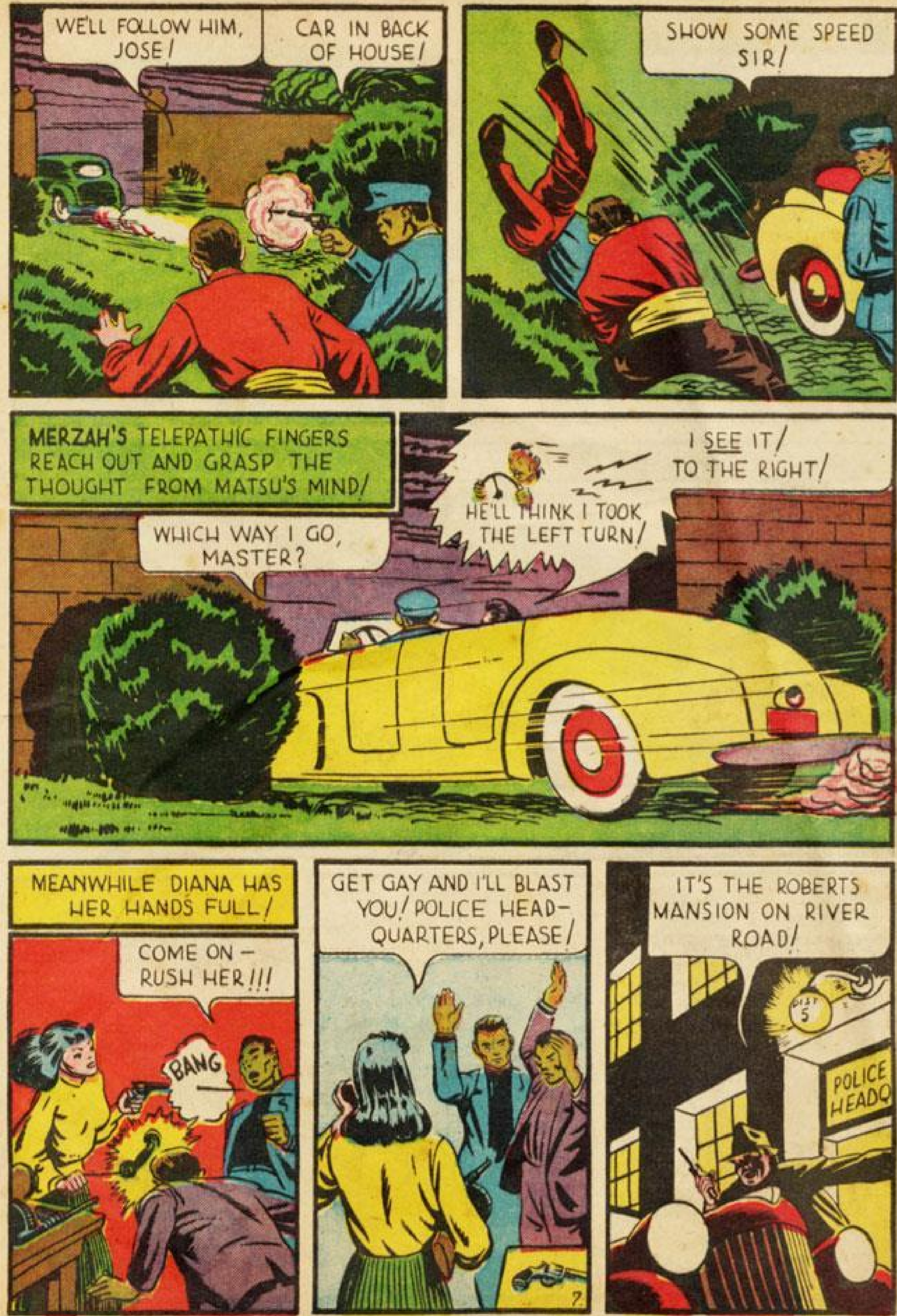

A SKILLFUL SABOTEUR MOVES A SECTION OF RAIL AND...!
AND IN THE MOONLIGHT---THE AWFUL WRECK!
COME DIANA, WE MUST HELP THE SUFFERERS!
MERZAH'S MYSTIC POWERS!
WE'RE LOSING TIME! LET'S GET TO AN AIRPORT!
YES - BUT FIRST I MUST KNOW WHO DID THIS AWFUL THING! I SEE IT!
AT 12 TONIGHT!
MERZAH IS RIGHT! FOR IN A DISTANT CITY....
MERZAH THE MYSTIC WAS ON THAT TRAIN!
AT 12 TONIGHT! OUR AGENT DID WELL!
DISASTROUS WRECK! MANY LIVES LOST!
IVAN...SEND A WIRE TO AGENT NASAKI. WE LEAVE TONIGHT BY PLANE.
THE AGENT AT SAN CARLOS PREPARES A SECRET MESSAGE
EXCELLENCY MATSU COMES AT LAST! IT IS WELL!
Merzah at Astor Hotel. N.
THE AGENT REPORTS TO HIS CHIEF!
MEET AT 98 PEARL ST.

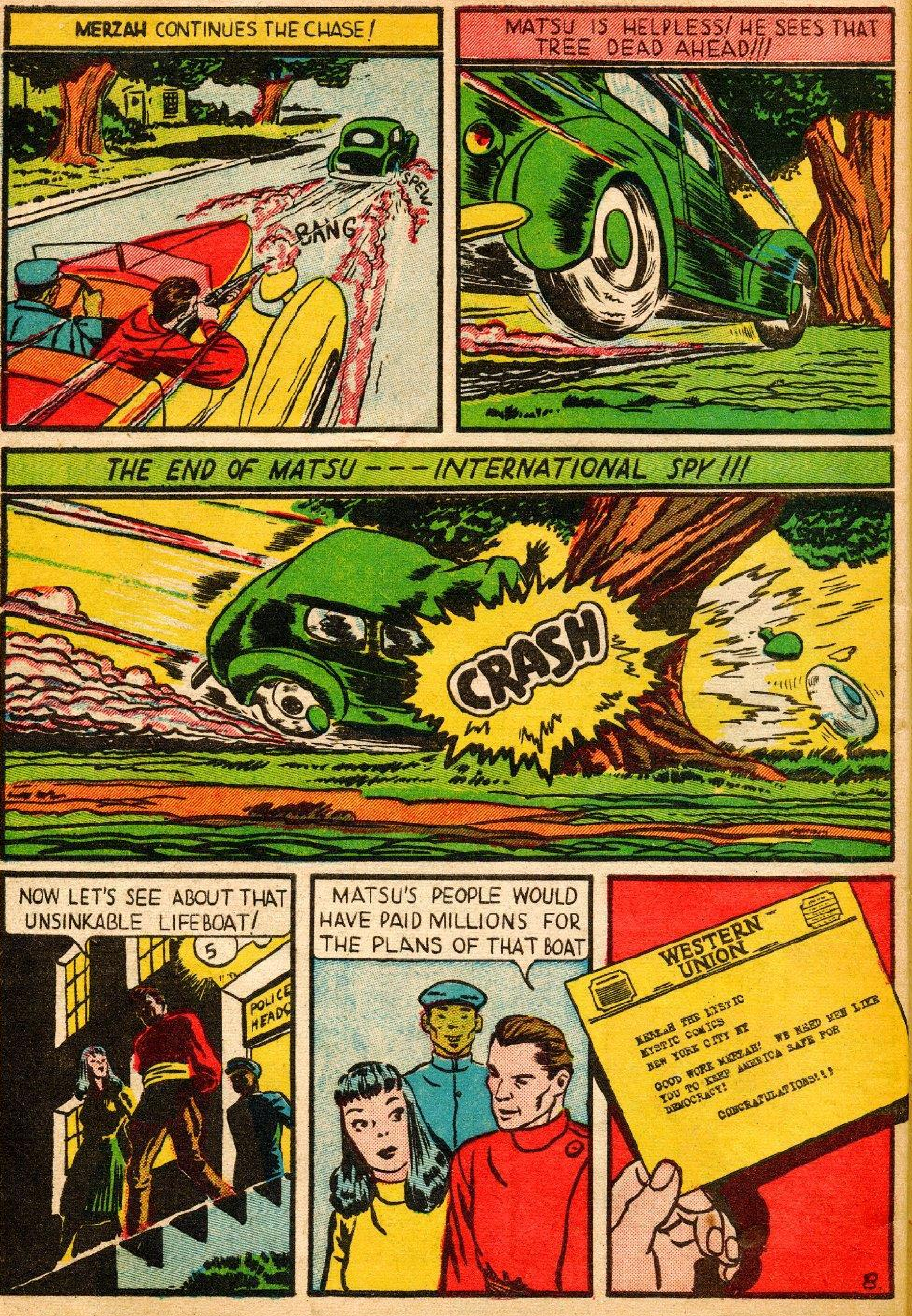

A MYSTERIOUS PHONE CALL
WHO WAS IT, DIANA?
SOME MAN. HE SAID, *"IF **MERZAH** WANTS TO FIND MATSU, TELL HIM TO GO TO 98 PEARL ST."*
MERZAH STARTS ON THE TRAIL
WATCH THE TELEPATHIC RECORDER, JOSE, - IF THERE'S TROUBLE, I'LL START *"REACHING"* FOR YOU.
YES SIR
THERE'S DANGER AHEAD, **MERZAH**!
HE'S ON HIS WAY, PHONE MATSU!
REMEMBER, JOSE -- STAND BY FOR A "CALL".
MEANWHILE AT 98 PEARL ST.
BE READY ALL! THEY COME! UP THE WALK!
TAKE THEM ALIVE, MEN!
LOOK OUT BEHIND YOU, DIANA!
SLAM!
NOW THE GREAT **MERZAH** IS MY PRISONER.

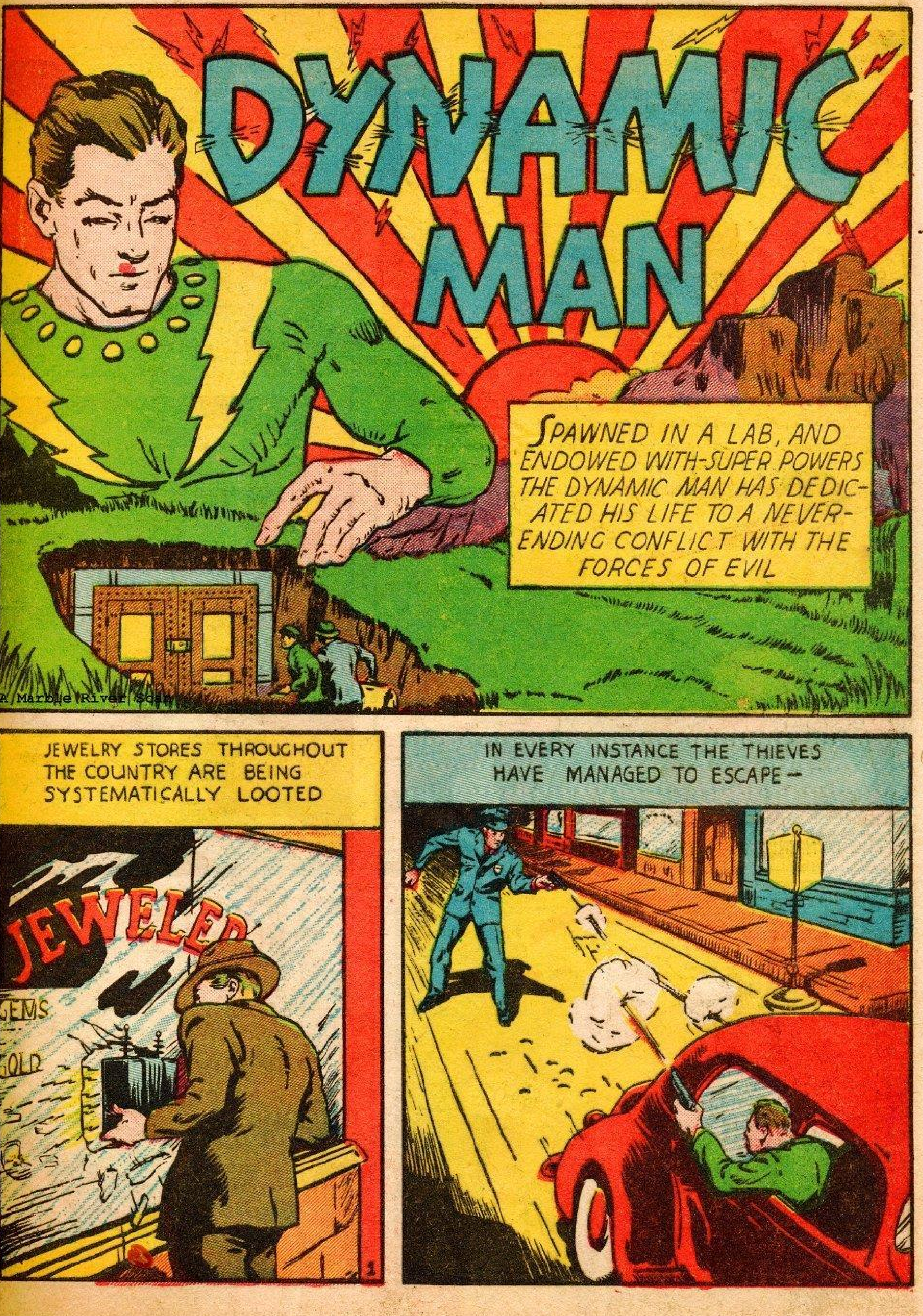

JOSE JOSE JOSE
MERZAH CALLS UPON HIS AMAZING POWERS! HIS TELEPATHIC MIND REACHES OUT INTO THE ETHER! HE CONTACTS JOSE!
HELP JOSE 98 PEARL ST HURRY!
A BLOWOUT! WILL JOSE ARRIVE IN TIME?
HURRY JOSE HURRY
YES MERZAH! - I COMING SOON!
BANG
AND WHILE JOSE FEVERISHLY FIXES HIS FLAT TIRE - MATSU HAS DECIDED...
I HAVE DECIDED TO TAKE THEM OUT OF TOWN. GET THE CAR, TOGO!
COURAGE MERZAH! JOSE FOLLOWS TO HELP
98
TRAILING THE BLACK LIMOUSINE, JOSE FINDS HIMSELF OUTSIDE THE GROUNDS OF A LONG ISLAND MANSION. THE HIDEOUT OF THE GANG
AND THAT NIGHT.....
UP STAIRS JOSE UP STAIRS! SEE THE LIGHT


JOSE ANSWERS THE CALL! SEES A BEAM OF LIGHT FROM A FLASHLIGHT MERZAH HAD CONCEALED IN HIS CLOTHES
SPAT
ANOTHER GUARD BLOCKS HIS WAY-JOSE SLUGS HIM-SECURES HIS GUN
OH YES! I COMING MERZAH
I COMING...
DIANA! HE'S COMING! I SEE HIM!
JOSE! YOU'RE HERE!
FATE! JOSE KNOCKS OVER TABLE LAMP IN HIS HASTE TO REACH MERZAH
NEVER MIND THAT, JOSE! UNTIE US!
CRASH!
WHILE DOWNSTAIRS....
LISTEN! THAT NOISE-LET'S GET OUTSIDE!
THE BED-ROOM WINDOW!

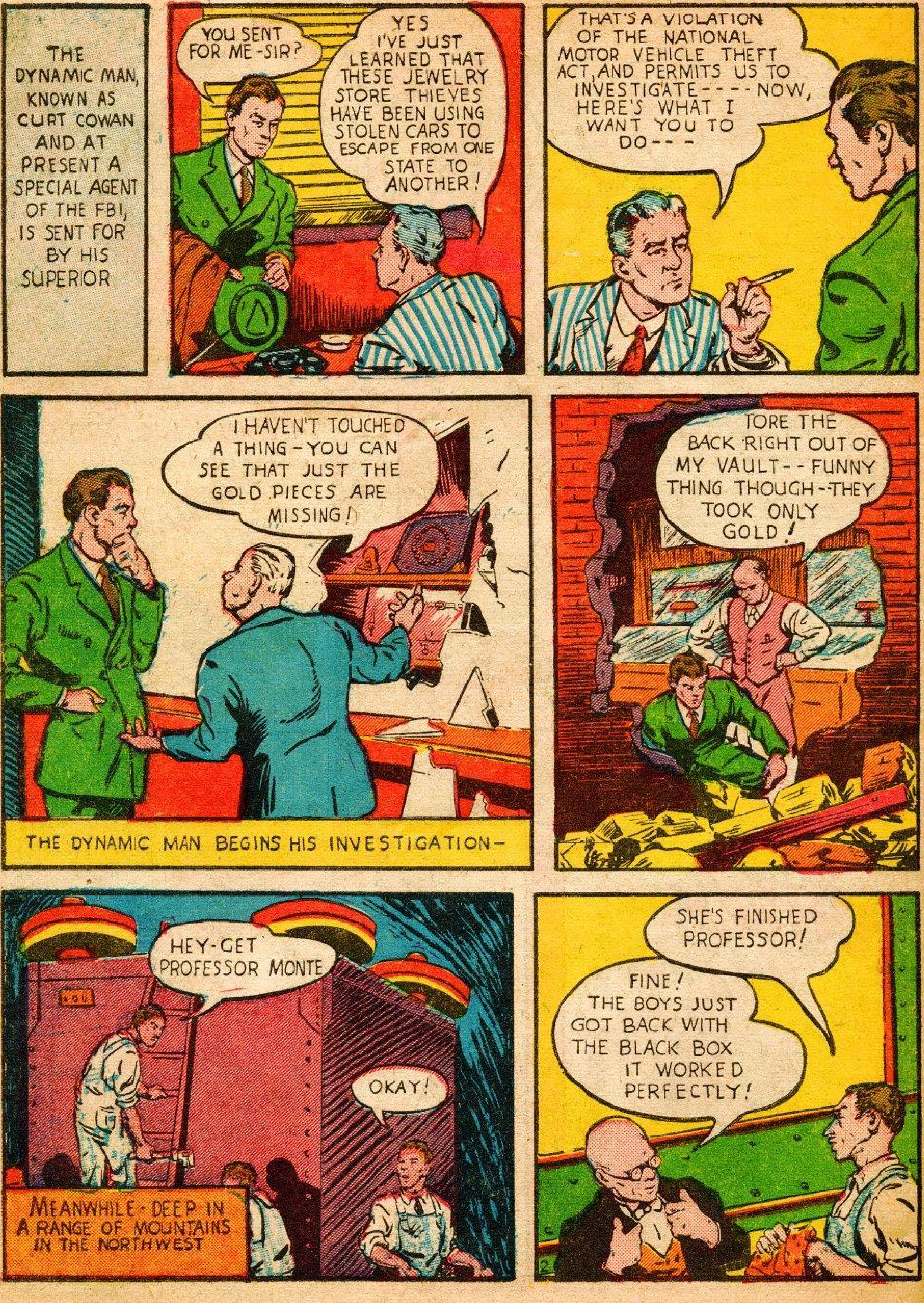

MERZAH'S MYSTIC BRAIN COMES TO THEIR AID!
BEDROOM WINDOW OUTSIDE
NO! THE HALL IS SAFER! I'LL GUARD THE WINDOW!
SMACK
GET THE MACHINE GUN, NASAKI!
THE WINDOW IS COVERED!
COME ON JOSE, — LET'S FINISH THIS UP!
SMACK
LOOK OUT! MATSU'S ESCAPING!
I'LL GO AFTER MATSU!
AND I'LL TAKE CARE OF THESE GENTLEMEN!

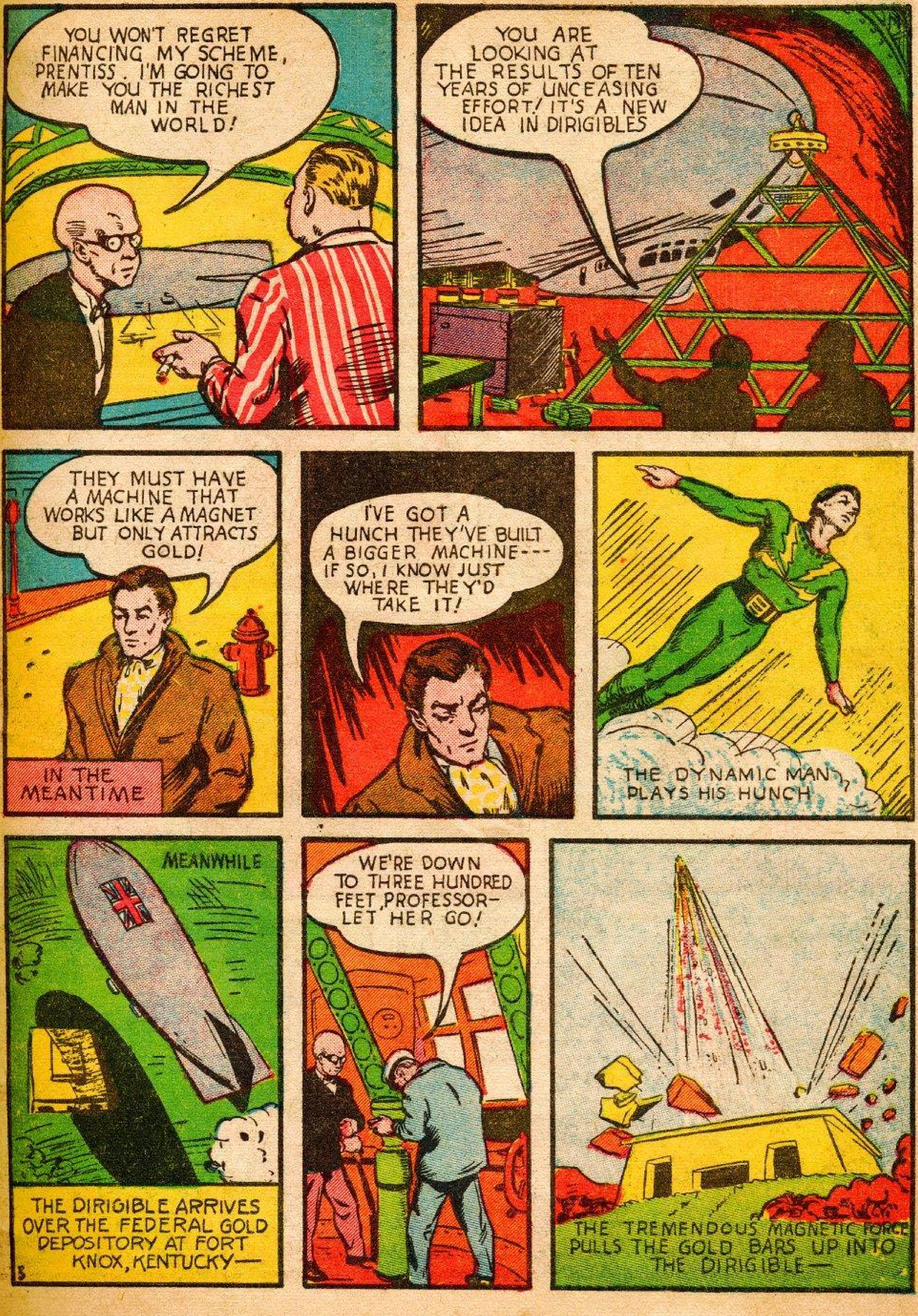

WE'LL FOLLOW HIM, JOSE!
CAR IN BACK OF HOUSE!
SHOW SOME SPEED SIR!
MERZAH'S TELEPATHIC FINGERS REACH OUT AND GRASP THE THOUGHT FROM MATSU'S MIND!
WHICH WAY I GO, MASTER?
HE'LL THINK I TOOK THE LEFT TURN!
I SEE IT! TO THE RIGHT!
MEANWHILE DIANA HAS HER HANDS FULL!
COME ON — RUSH HER!!!
BANG
GET GAY AND I'LL BLAST YOU! POLICE HEADQUARTERS, PLEASE!
IT'S THE ROBERTS MANSION ON RIVER ROAD!
DIST 5
POLICE HEADQ

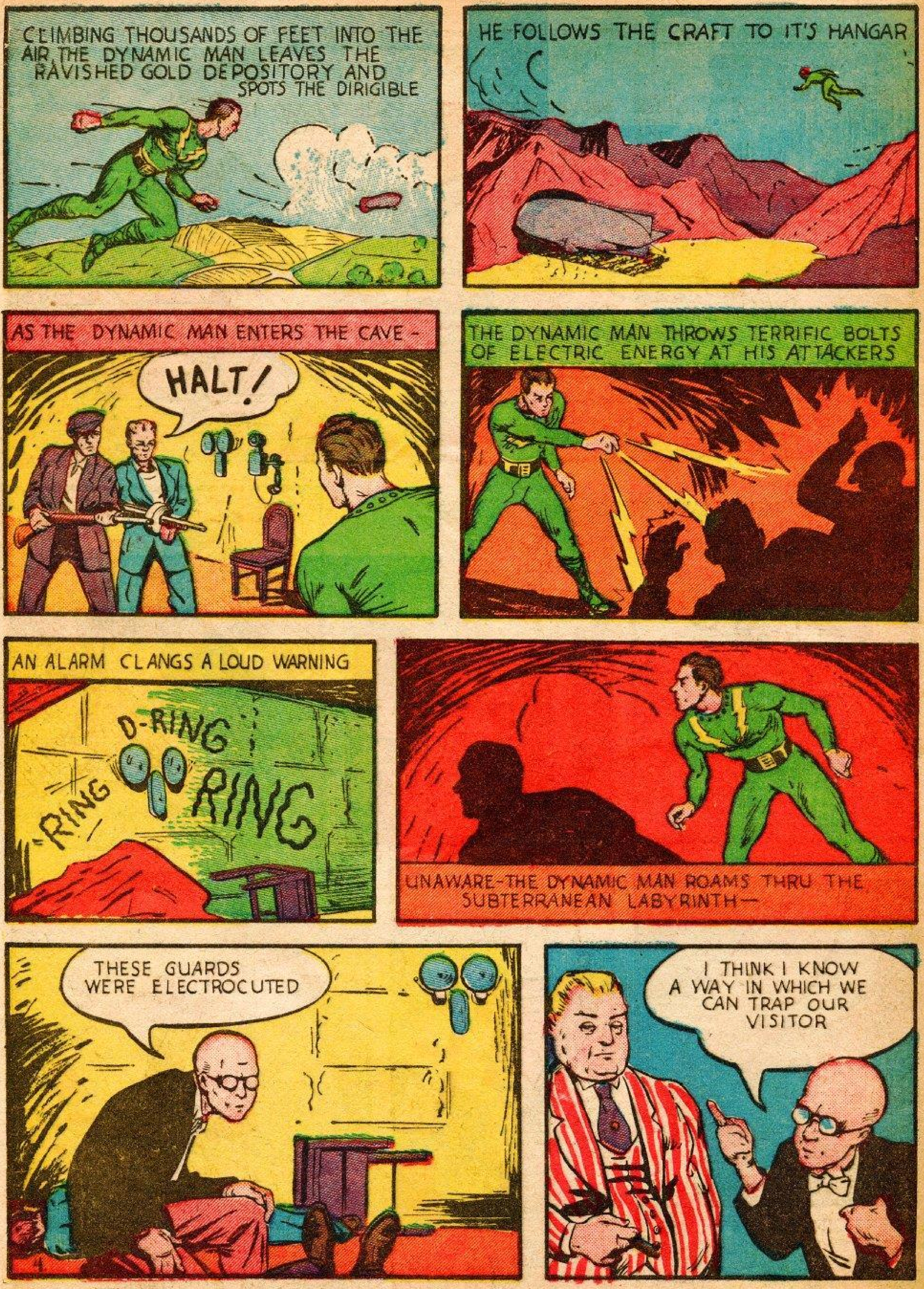

MERZAH CONTINUES THE CHASE!
SPEW
BANG
MATSU IS HELPLESS! HE SEES THAT TREE DEAD AHEAD!!!
THE END OF MATSU---INTERNATIONAL SPY!!!
CRASH
NOW LET'S SEE ABOUT THAT UNSINKABLE LIFEBOAT!
5
POLICE HEADQ
MATSU'S PEOPLE WOULD HAVE PAID MILLIONS FOR THE PLANS OF THAT BOAT
WESTERN UNION
MERZAH THE MYSTIC
MYSTIC COMICS
NEW YORK CITY NY
GOOD WORK MERZAH! WE NEED MEN LIKE
YOU TO KEEP AMERICA SAFE FOR
DEMOCRACY!
CONGRATULATIONS!!!

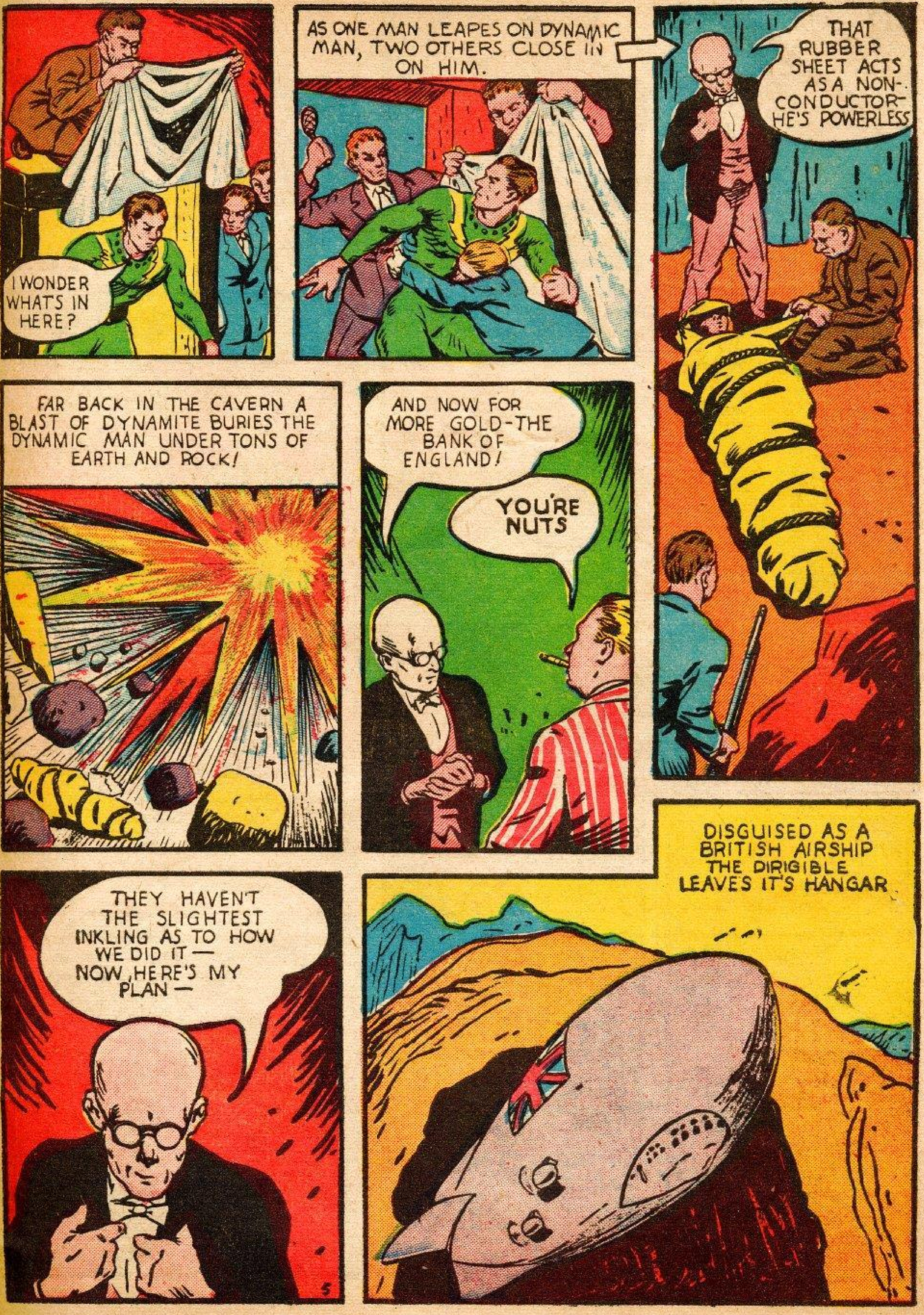

DYNAMIC MAN
SPAWNED IN A LAB, AND ENDOWED WITH-SUPER POWERS THE DYNAMIC MAN HAS DEDICATED HIS LIFE TO A NEVER-ENDING CONFLICT WITH THE FORCES OF EVIL
JEWELRY STORES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY ARE BEING SYSTEMATICALLY LOOTED
JEWELER
GEMS
GOLD
1
IN EVERY INSTANCE THE THIEVES HAVE MANAGED TO ESCAPE—

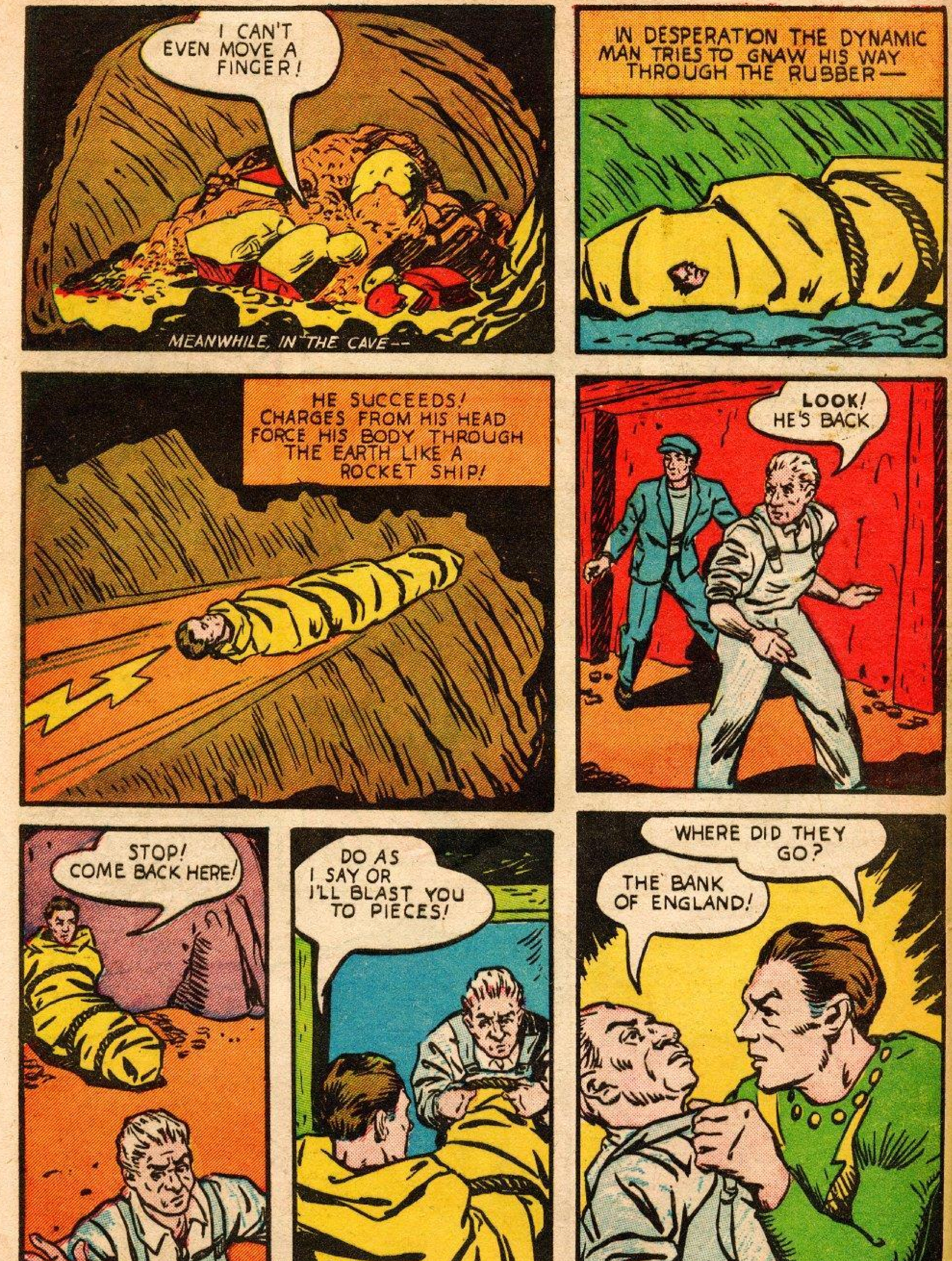
A Marble River Scan

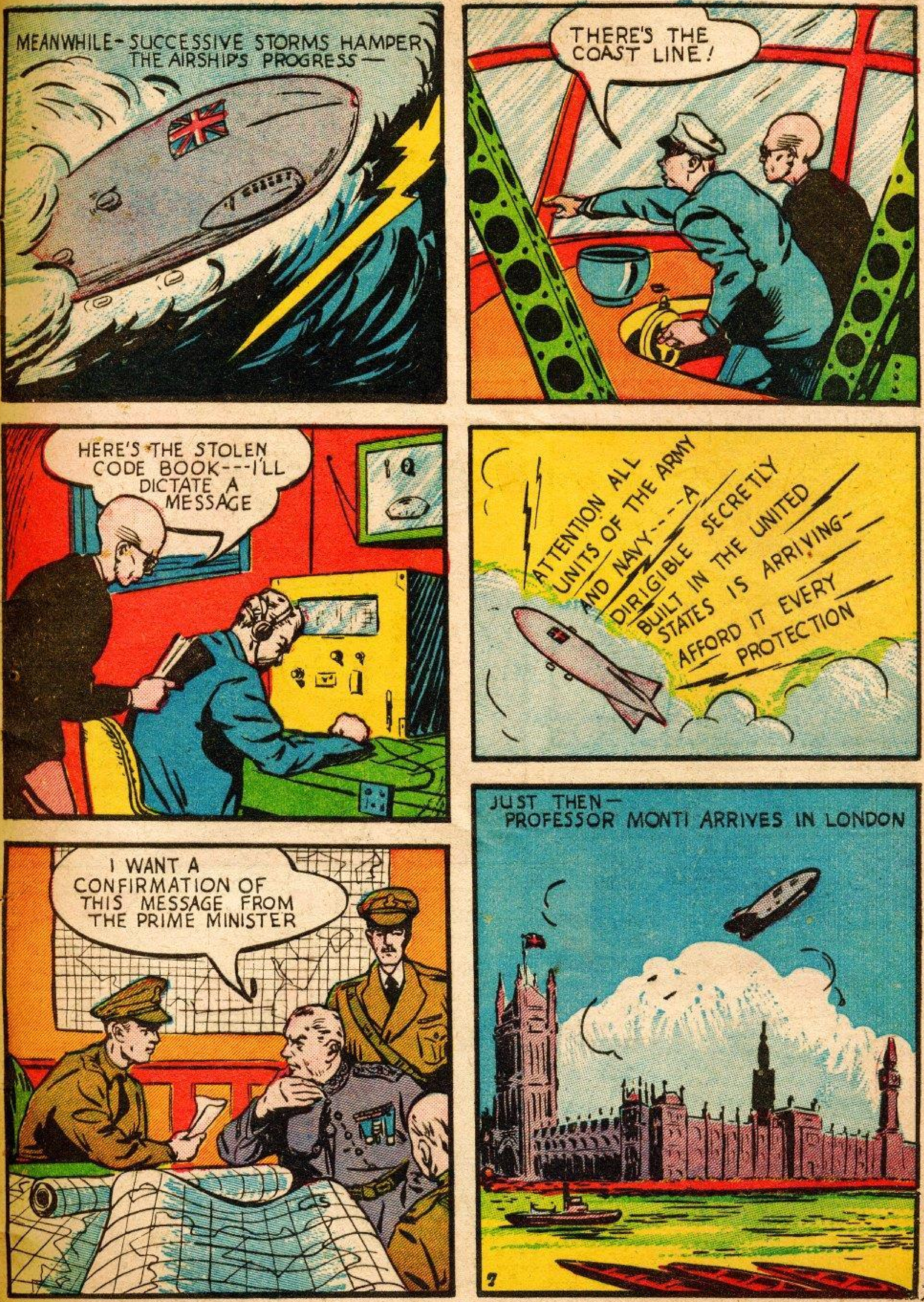

THE DYNAMIC MAN, KNOWN AS CURT COWAN AND AT PRESENT A SPECIAL AGENT OF THE FBI, IS SENT FOR BY HIS SUPERIOR
YOU SENT FOR ME-SIR?
YES I'VE JUST LEARNED THAT THESE JEWELRY STORE THIEVES HAVE BEEN USING STOLEN CARS TO ESCAPE FROM ONE STATE TO ANOTHER!
THAT'S A VIOLATION OF THE NATIONAL MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT ACT AND PERMITS US TO INVESTIGATE----NOW, HERE'S WHAT I WANT YOU TO DO---
I HAVEN'T TOUCHED A THING-YOU CAN SEE THAT JUST THE GOLD PIECES ARE MISSING!
THE DYNAMIC MAN BEGINS HIS INVESTIGATION-
TORE THE BACK RIGHT OUT OF MY VAULT--FUNNY THING THOUGH-THEY TOOK ONLY GOLD!
HEY-GET PROFESSOR MONTE
OKAY!
MEANWHILE-DEEP IN A RANGE OF MOUNTAINS IN THE NORTHWEST
SHE'S FINISHED PROFESSOR!
FINE! THE BOYS JUST GOT BACK WITH THE BLACK BOX IT WORKED PERFECTLY!

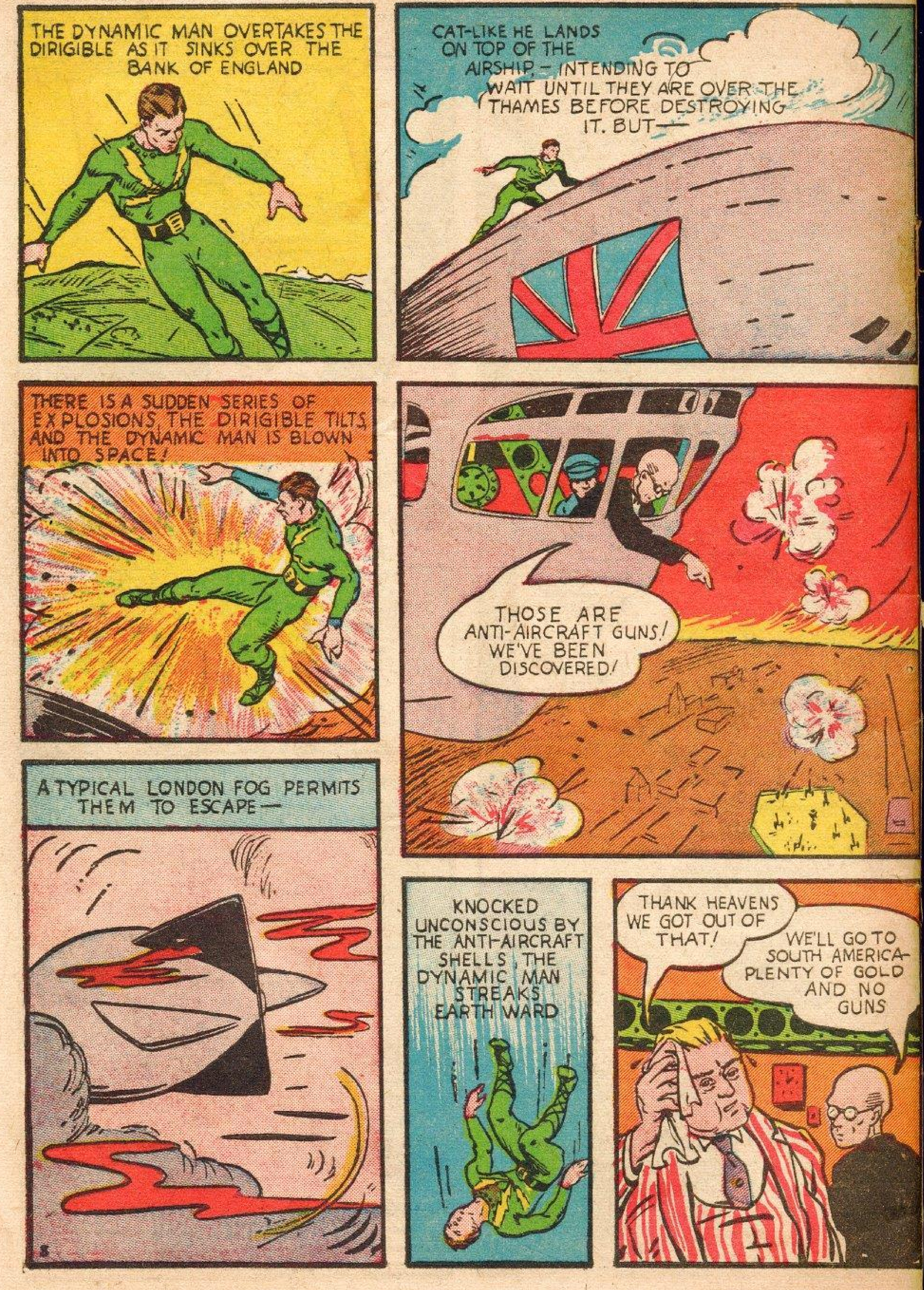

YOU WON'T REGRET FINANCING MY SCHEME, PRENTISS. I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU THE RICHEST MAN IN THE WORLD!
YOU ARE LOOKING AT THE RESULTS OF TEN YEARS OF UNCEASING EFFORT! IT'S A NEW IDEA IN DIRIGIBLES
THEY MUST HAVE A MACHINE THAT WORKS LIKE A MAGNET BUT ONLY ATTRACTS GOLD!
IN THE MEANTIME
I'VE GOT A HUNCH THEY'VE BUILT A BIGGER MACHINE--- IF SO, I KNOW JUST WHERE THEY'D TAKE IT!
THE DYNAMIC MAN PLAYS HIS HUNCH
MEANWHILE
THE DIRIGIBLE ARRIVES OVER THE FEDERAL GOLD DEPOSITORY AT FORT KNOX, KENTUCKY—
WE'RE DOWN TO THREE HUNDRED FEET, PROFESSOR— LET HER GO!
THE TREMENDOUS MAGNETIC FORCE PULLS THE GOLD BARS UP INTO THE DIRIGIBLE—

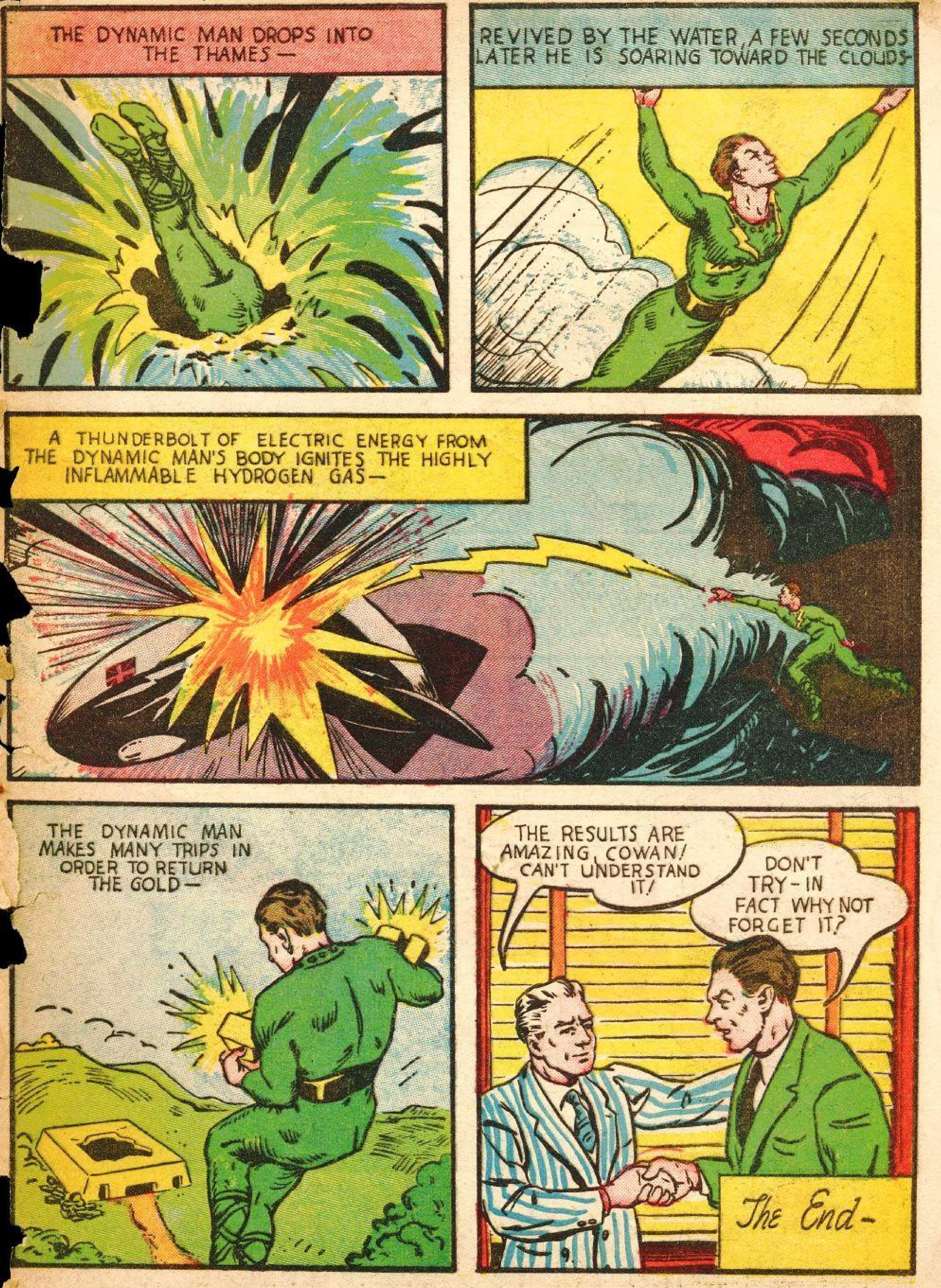

CLIMBING THOUSANDS OF FEET INTO THE AIR THE DYNAMIC MAN LEAVES THE RAVISHED GOLD DEPOSITORY AND SPOTS THE DIRIGIBLE
HE FOLLOWS THE CRAFT TO IT'S HANGAR
AS THE DYNAMIC MAN ENTERS THE CAVE -
HALT!
THE DYNAMIC MAN THROWS TERRIFIC BOLTS OF ELECTRIC ENERGY AT HIS ATTACKERS
AN ALARM CLANGS A LOUD WARNING
D-RING
RING
RING
UNAWARE-THE DYNAMIC MAN ROAMS THRU THE SUBTERRANEAN LABYRINTH—
THESE GUARDS WERE ELECTROCUTED
I THINK I KNOW A WAY IN WHICH WE CAN TRAP OUR VISITOR

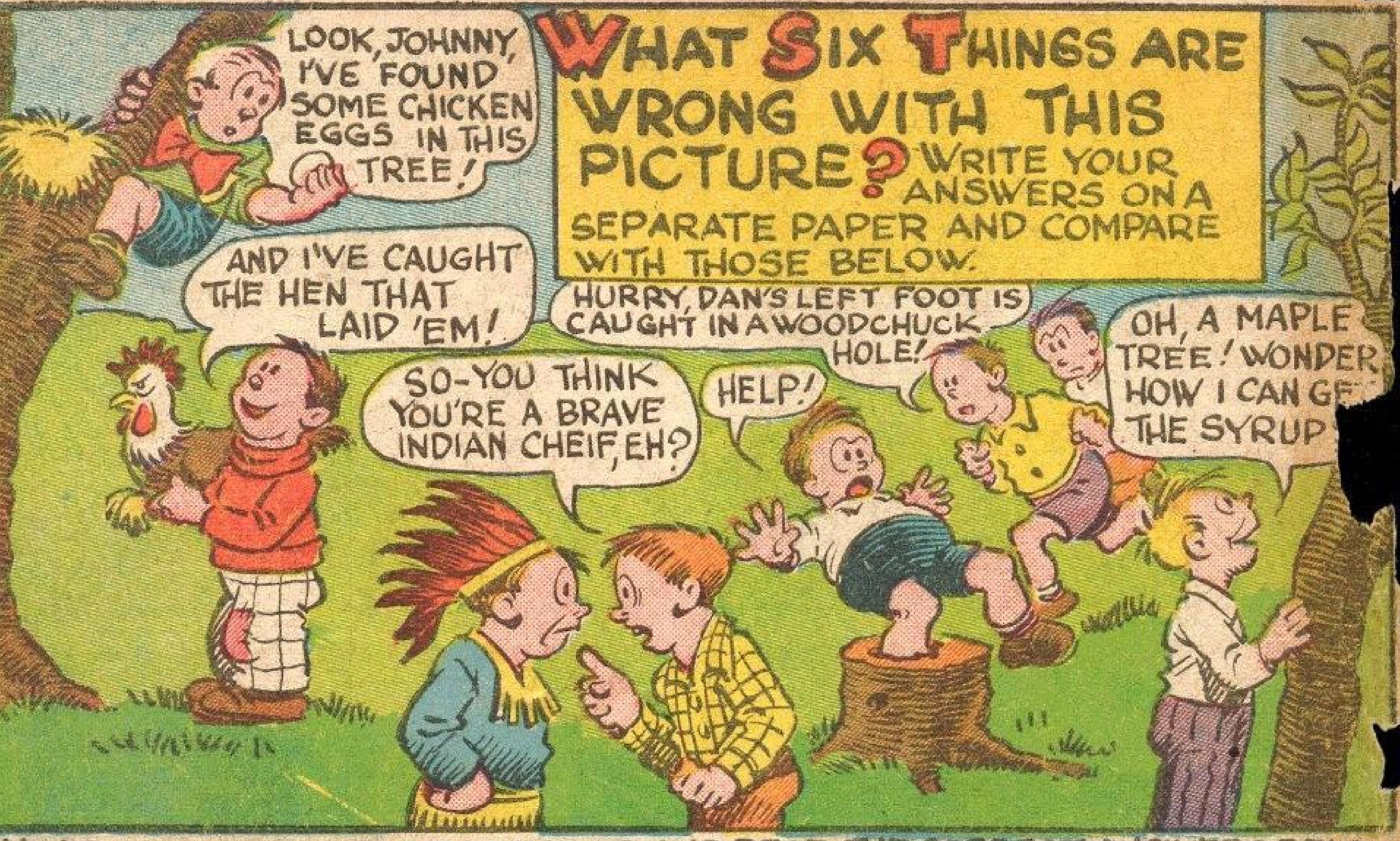

I WONDER WHATS IN HERE?
AS ONE MAN LEAPES ON DYNAMIC MAN, TWO OTHERS CLOSE IN ON HIM.
THAT RUBBER SHEET ACTS AS A NON-CONDUCTOR- HE'S POWERLESS
FAR BACK IN THE CAVERN A BLAST OF DYNAMITE BURIES THE DYNAMIC MAN UNDER TONS OF EARTH AND ROCK!
AND NOW FOR MORE GOLD-THE BANK OF ENGLAND!
YOU'RE NUTS
THEY HAVEN'T THE SLIGHTEST INKLING AS TO HOW WE DID IT — NOW, HERE'S MY PLAN —
DISGUISED AS A BRITISH AIRSHIP THE DIRIGIBLE LEAVES IT'S HANGAR


I CAN'T EVEN MOVE A FINGER!
MEANWHILE, IN THE CAVE--
IN DESPERATION THE DYNAMIC MAN TRIES TO GNAW HIS WAY THROUGH THE RUBBER—
HE SUCCEEDS! CHARGES FROM HIS HEAD FORCE HIS BODY THROUGH THE EARTH LIKE A ROCKET SHIP!
LOOK! HE'S BACK.
STOP! COME BACK HERE!
DO AS I SAY OR I'LL BLAST YOU TO PIECES!
WHERE DID THEY GO?
THE BANK OF ENGLAND!


MEANWHILE—SUCCESSIVE STORMS HAMPER THE AIRSHIP'S PROGRESS—
THERE'S THE COAST LINE!
HERE'S THE STOLEN CODE BOOK---I'LL DICTATE A MESSAGE
ATTENTION ALL UNITS OF THE ARMY AND NAVY----A DIRIGIBLE SECRETLY BUILT IN THE UNITED STATES IS ARRIVING—AFFORD IT EVERY PROTECTION
I WANT A CONFIRMATION OF THIS MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER
JUST THEN—PROFESSOR MONTI ARRIVES IN LONDON


THE DYNAMIC MAN OVERTAKES THE DIRIGIBLE AS IT SINKS OVER THE BANK OF ENGLAND
CAT-LIKE HE LANDS ON TOP OF THE AIRSHIP - INTENDING TO WAIT UNTIL THEY ARE OVER THE THAMES BEFORE DESTROYING IT. BUT—
THERE IS A SUDDEN SERIES OF EXPLOSIONS, THE DIRIGIBLE TILTS AND THE DYNAMIC MAN IS BLOWN INTO SPACE!
THOSE ARE ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS! WE'VE BEEN DISCOVERED!
A TYPICAL LONDON FOG PERMITS THEM TO ESCAPE—
KNOCKED UNCONSCIOUS BY THE ANTI-AIRCRAFT SHELLS, THE DYNAMIC MAN STREAKS EARTH WARD
THANK HEAVENS WE GOT OUT OF THAT!
WE'LL GO TO SOUTH AMERICA— PLENTY OF GOLD AND NO GUNS

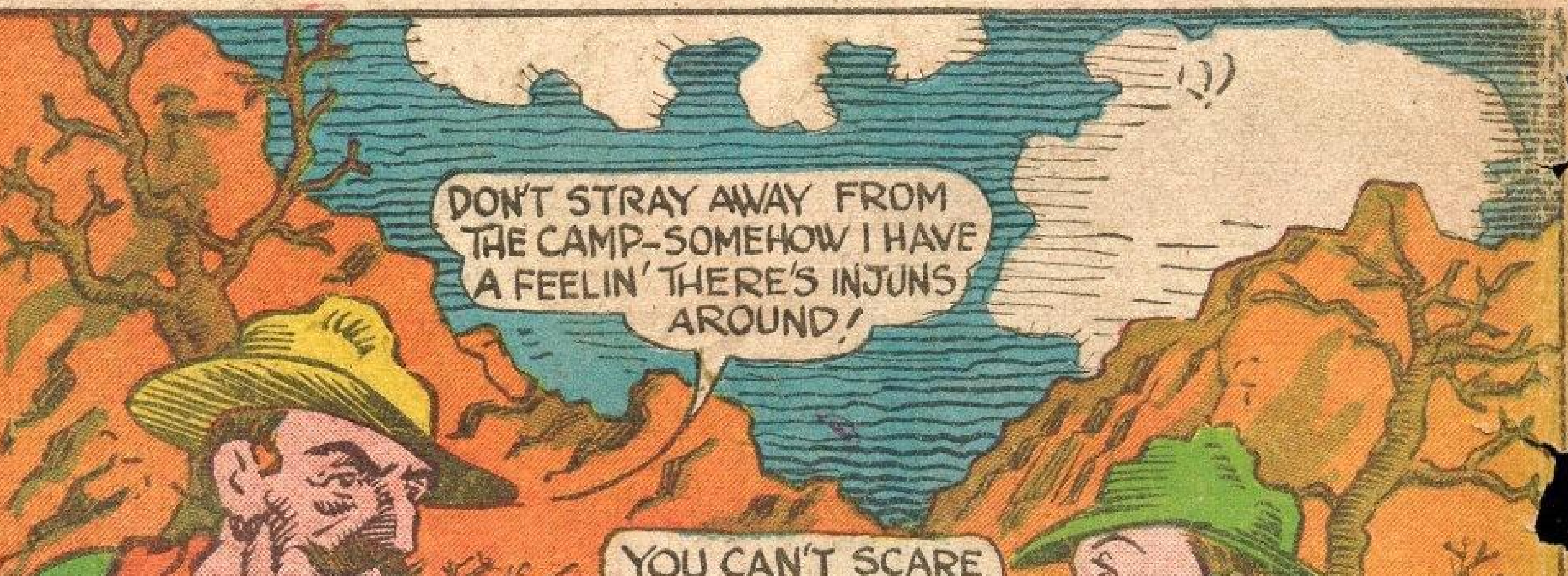

THE DYNAMIC MAN DROPS INTO THE THAMES—
REVIVED BY THE WATER, A FEW SECONDS LATER HE IS SOARING TOWARD THE CLOUDS—
A THUNDERBOLT OF ELECTRIC ENERGY FROM THE DYNAMIC MAN'S BODY IGNITES THE HIGHLY INFLAMMABLE HYDROGEN GAS—
THE DYNAMIC MAN MAKES MANY TRIPS IN ORDER TO RETURN THE GOLD—
THE RESULTS ARE AMAZING, COWAN! CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT!
DON'T TRY—IN FACT WHY NOT FORGET IT?
The End—


WHAT SIX THINGS ARE WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE? WRITE YOUR ANSWERS ON A SEPARATE PAPER AND COMPARE WITH THOSE BELOW.
LOOK, JOHNNY, I'VE FOUND SOME CHICKEN EGGS IN THIS TREE!
AND I'VE CAUGHT THE HEN THAT LAID 'EM!
SO-YOU THINK YOU'RE A BRAVE INDIAN CHEIF, EH?
HELP!
HURRY, DAN'S LEFT FOOT IS CAUGHT IN A WOODCHUCK HOLE!
OH, A MAPLE TREE! WONDER HOW I CAN GE THE SYRUP

HOLD THIS IN FRONT OF A MIRROR AND READ THE CORRECT ANSWERS BELO

1. HENS DO NOT LAY EGGS IN TREES
2. JOHNNY CAUGHT A ROOSTER
3. THE WORD "CHIEF" IS MISPELLED

N'S RIGHT FOOT IS CAUGHT
WOODCHUCKS DO NOT MAKE HOLES IN STUMPS
MAPLE TREES HAVE DIFFERENT LEAVES


DON'T STRAY AWAY FROM THE CAMP-SOMEHOW I HAVE A FEELIN' THERE'S INJUNS AROUND!
YOU CAN'T SCARE ME- I DON'T SEE ANY INJUNS!

THE BOY IS WRONG! THERE ARE SEVEN DISTINCT PROFILES OF REDSKINS HIDDEN SOMEWHERE IN THIS PICTURE. UNTIL YOU FIND EACH AND EVERY ONE THE PUZZLE IS NOT SOLVED. CAN YOU FIND THEM?

Charlie Barnet Uses Home Recordo!

Charlie Barnet in his private hotel suite checking a duet by Judy Ellington and Larry Taylor, Vocalists in his band.

You, Too, Can Make Your Own Records If You Sing or Play an Instrument

Judy Ellington heard in Charlie Barnet's Band making a Home Recordo record for her personal album.

MAKE YOUR OWN RECORDS AT HOME

Before spending money for an audition, make a "home record" of your voice or musical instrument and mail it to a reliable agency . . . you might be one of the lucky ones to find fame and success through this easy method of bringing your talents before the proper authorities.

Larry Taylor, Vocalist in Charlie Barnet's Band, listening to a play back of a recording he just made with Home Recordo.

Now a new invention permits you to make a professional-like recording of your own singing, talking or instrument playing. Any one can quickly and easily make phonograph records and play them back at once. Record your voice or your friend's voices. If you play an instrument, you can make a record and you and your friends can hear it as often as you like. You can also record orchestras or favorite radio programs right off the air and replay them whenever you wish.

THERE IT IS! I JUST MADE THIS RECORD WITH THE NEW HOME RECORDO!
YES, BOB AND IT SURE SOUNDS LIKE YOUR VOICE!
IT'S WONDERFUL —AND SO SIMPLE —PLEASE LET ME MAKE A RECORD.

Everything is included. Nothing else to buy and nothing else to pay. You get complete HOME RECORDING UNIT, which includes special recording needle, playing needles, 6 two-sided unbreakable records. Also guide record and spiral feeding attachment and combination recording and playback unit suitable for recording a skit, voice, instrument or radio broadcast. ADDITIONAL 2-SIDED BLANK RECORDS COST ONLY $.75 per dozen.

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RECORD PLAYERS
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Old or New Type
PHONOGRAPHS and PORTABLES

IT'S LOTS OF FUN TOO! HAVING RECORDING PARTIES!

You'll get a real thrill out of HOME RECORDING. Surprise your friends by letting them hear your voice or playing right from a record. Record a snappy talking feature. Record jokes and become the life of the party. Great to help train your voice and to cultivate speech. Nothing to practice . . . you start recording at once . . . no other mechanical or electrical devices needed . . . everything necessary included. Nothing else to buy. Just sing, speak or play and HOME RECORDO unit, which operates on any electric or old type phonograph, will do the recording on special blank records we furnish. You can immediately play the records back as often as you wish. Make your home movie a talking picture with HOME RECORDO. Simply make the record while filming and play back while showing the picture.

Charlie Barnet with his manager, Bill May, often check new arrangements on Home Recordo.

SEND NO MONEY! HURRY COUPON!
START RECORDING AT ONCE!

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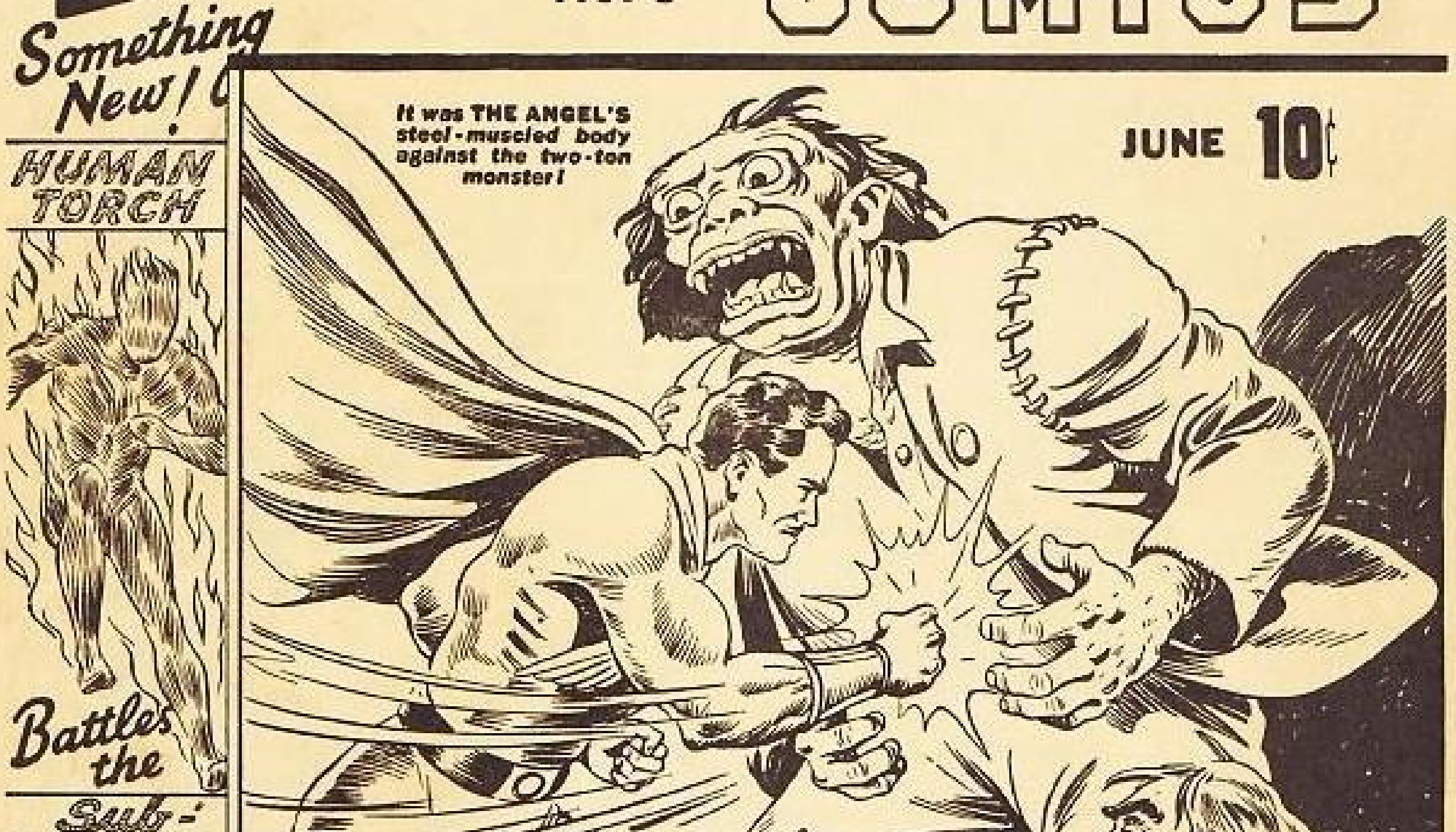
No. 8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SUB-MARINER
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